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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

—OF THE—

LIFE OF SAM HOUSTON,

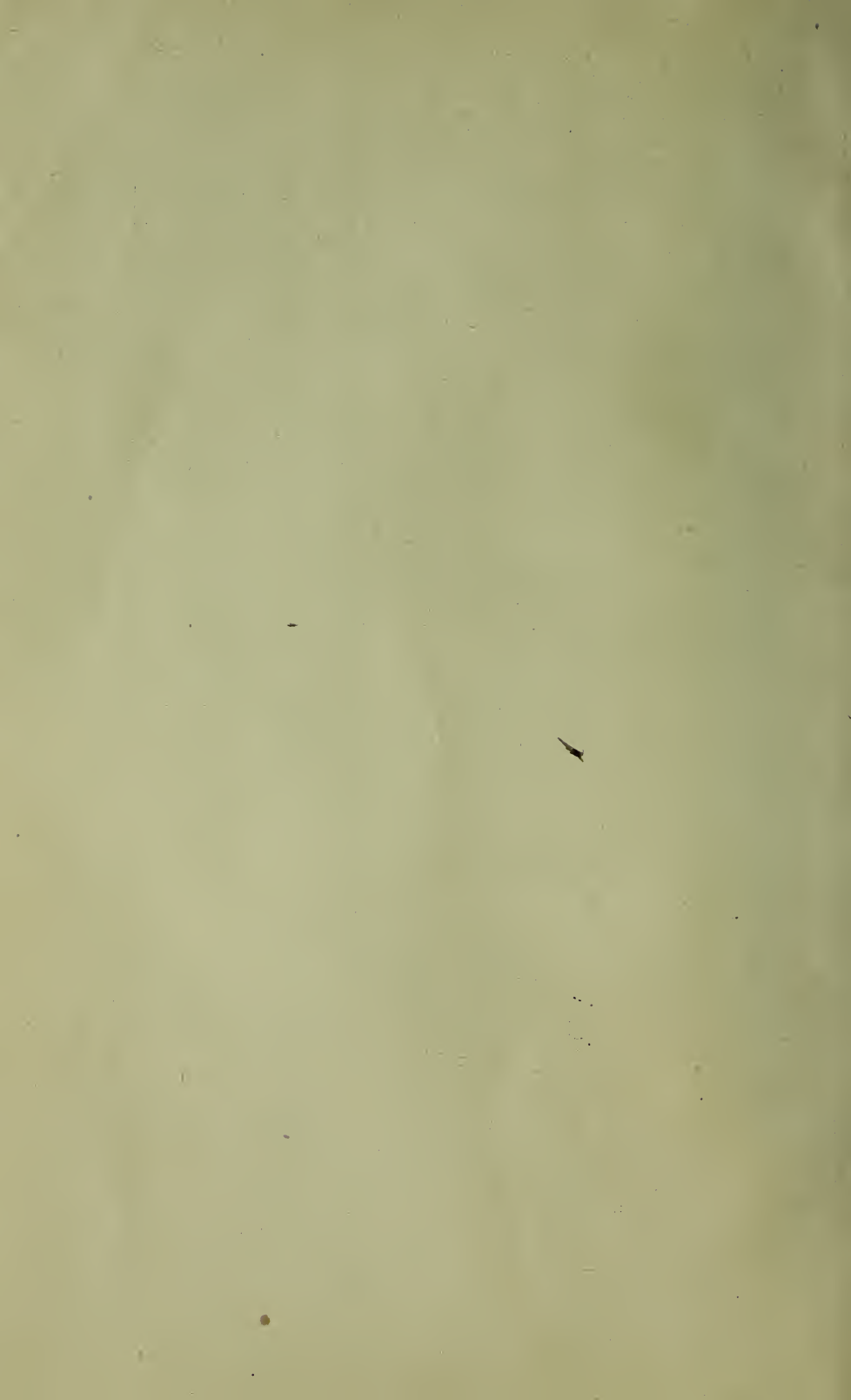
—WITH—

*A Condensed History of Texas from Its Discovery
to 1861.*

BY JUDGE WILLIAM LEWIS.

PRICE FIFTY-CENTS.

DALLAS :
HERALD STEAM PRINTING HOUSE.
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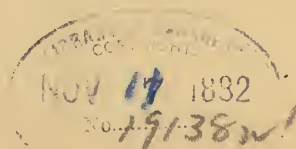
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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

The object of the writer in presenting this small volume to the public has been to furnish some facts connected with the labor and services General Houston rendered to Texas and mankind in plain and homely language.

Any attempt at high-flown expressions has been avoided not less carefully than low and vulgar ones. To state truly plain facts has been the desire of the author.

As an apology for any defects in composition, we have to say that the narrative has been written at night, after a hard day's toil at manual labor; when the eyelids were heavy, the brain sluggish and the arm weary, and without any library to refer to containing historical or literary works. The most interesting and important portions of the contents of the volume embrace the General's army orders, his written correspondence and his public speeches.

The Texan revolutionary patriots of 1836 staked their all in the cause of a free and enlightened government; a cause which they sustained with their labors and cemented with their blood. Some survived the conflict; a small number still live. The present generation is reaping the fruit of their labor.

If the perusal of this unpretending volume should cause anyone to duly appreciate the manly deeds of the great and successful leader of the Texan secessionists, the aim of the writer will have been attained.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

OF

THE LIFE OF SAM HOUSTON.

SAM HOUSTON was born in Virginia. When quite young he became a resident of Blount county, Tennessee. At the age of twenty he volunteered as a soldier in the United States army; was soon promoted to the rank of lieutenant, and was a participant in the battle of "Horse Shoe." His heroic valor on that occasion in leading the charge over the Indian breastworks, amid a shower of bullets from the enemy, won the especial esteem and admiration of General Jackson. From that period on a mutual friendship was formed that never weakened.

In 1817, he was appointed agent to the Cherokee Indians; from his intercourse with that tribe he learned his first lesson in the art of Indian diplomacy, between whom and himself a warm and lasting friendship was contracted. He studied law, and at the age of twenty-six was appointed Attorney-General of the State. At thirty he was elected to the Congress of the United States, where he soon rose to distinction and prominence. At the age of thirty-six, *i. e.*, 1827, he was inaugurated Governor of Tennessee, and soon thereafter married an accomplished, brilliant and fashionable woman, with family connections of great influence. At that period

the young Governor was considered the most popular of any man in the Southwest, except General Jackson.

From this high pinnacle of fame, wealth and domestic happiness, he had only to wait a few years to ascend to the Presidential chair. But the hidden hand of Divinity had decreed that from this lofty position he should soon tumble into the vortex of unhappiness, despair, social and political ruin. At the expiration of about three months from the date of his nuptials, he discovered that his marriage was not only unfortunate but insupportable to such a degree that a mutual agreement of separation transpired between himself and wife upon terms of eternal secrecy as to the cause. He escorted his young and brilliant bride to the parental roof where he married, and bade her an eternal adieu; cursed the deceitful and hollow sham of marriages not made in heaven; resigned his office of Governor; drew a dark veil between himself and the glittering and deceitful allurements of fashionable society, and sought an asylum of native purity and simplicity among his old friends, the Cherokee Indians, in their wild and romantic home west of Arkansas. We here insert an extract from a letter written to him by President Jackson in 1829. He says:

"My affliction was great, and as much as I well could bear, when I parted with you on the 18th of January last. I then viewed you as on the brink of happiness, and rejoiced. About to be united in marriage to a beautiful young lady, of accomplished manners and of respectable connections, and of your own selection; you the Governor of the State and holding the affections of the people; these were your prospects when I shook you by the hand and bade you farewell. You can well judge of my astonishment and grief in receiving a letter from you, dated at Little Rock, A. T., 11th of May, concerning the sad intelligence that you were then a private citizen—'an exile from your country.' What reverse of fortune! How unstable are all human affairs."

It is convenient to leave the greatly afflicted and "perplexed in the extreme" ex-Governor with his friends, the Indians, a few years.

In order to form a correct estimate of the full measure of the great services General Houston has rendered to Texas and her people, it is deemed proper to relate briefly some facts connected with her early history.

The most plausible and reliable explanations of the cause of the separation ever given, in the opinion of the writer, will be found in the following letter, written by Colonel Sam Hay.

Colonel Hay became acquainted with General Houston when a mere youth in Tennessee. He was in Nashville when the disunion occurred; heard all the explanations and comments as given by the friends of both parties. Came to Texas to repair a ruined fortune in 1845. Met a warm and cordial reception from his old friend, the General. Received the appointment of State District Attorney, and at a later period United States Attorney by aid of his influence; resided at Huntsville, a close and intimate neighbor of the General, when he expired:

HUNTSVILLE, August 15, 1863.

Judge William Lewis:

Dear Sir: In your letter, recently come to hand, you desire me to give you such facts as are in my possession concerning the last hours of General Houston. From my intimate acquaintance with you for years, I know you are interested in anything he did or said when living.

Concerning his feelings and expressions about the war, they were in accordance with his whole life. He loved the old flag, "but Texas more." He seemed to desire the possession of sufficient power to enable him to stand between the conflicting factions, North and South, and command the peace.

When President Lincoln sent a secret agent, offering him fifty thousand soldiers to regain his office of Governor, he replied: "Every drop of my blood I am willing to shed for Texas, but not one drop to degrade her people." He sent his son to the army to fight for the South. The last speech he made, a short time previous to his death, he said, in substance, that notwithstanding he was opposed to the manner in which the war began, under the condition of things, he desired that the South should be victorious rather than the North.

I believe it was the first time in his eventful life that he did not have a clear perception, exactly in what direction his duty to his country lay. His two wounds received in defense of human rights, one at Horse Shoe, the other at San Jacinto, were the remote cause of his death.

He was a shining light in the Baptist Church, and died with humble and Christian resignation.

When he ascended to Heaven he bore with him a well-grounded Christian hope of immortal felicity, and a love for the entire people of the disunited States. From his lofty position he is now looking down upon this terrible and irrepressible conflict, anxious to know the result, before he can enjoy sweet repose. "Peace be to his memory."

In regard to his separation from his first wife, which you have referred to, and which has caused such a remarkable curiosity for thirty odd years, I will write you all I know about it, which I request you not to make public, as it is a delicate subject—a subject that the General did not like to talk about.

I was at his bedside a few days before he died, and I thought I would venture to broach the subject to him. I approached him in a circuitous route. I asked him if he were to live his life over again what amends would he make? He replied: "He was weary and tired and desired to be at rest, and had no wish to live his life over again."

I then said, "General, your friends are extremely anxious to know the cause that inspired you to abandon your first wife?" He replied: "Myself and wife solemnly agreed never to divulge the cause, but one thing I will say, I never discovered the least blemish in her character for chastity. But you know that I have a wound, which I then had that I could not heal, and unless I was careful, at times it would be offensive. It always grieved me that my person should be offensive to any one on that account."

I will now relate to you what I believe the cause of the separation. I was in Tennessee when it occurred. I heard all the reasons given at that period by friend and foe. At the time he was elected Governor, his first wife was engaged to marry another man. Her friends thought it would be a more brilliant match for her to marry the popular young Governor knowing that he was partial to her. She was induced to break her first engagement and marry him. In about three months after the marriage the Governor discovered that his wife was not cheerful and happy. As we may naturally suppose, he sought to know the cause, and discovered that, his society was not agreeable to her. In all probability she made an allusion to his wound.

The above reason corresponds with what fell from the lips of Mrs. Houston's mother and others.

I am so well satisfied that it is the correct solution of the great mystery that I have no further curiosity about the event.

I am Thine,

SAM HAY.

It is affirmed by historians that LaSalle, a Frenchman, was the first white man that attempted to make a settlement in Texas. LaSalle, with three ships and three hundred emigrants, sailed from France with the intention to settle a colony in the Mississippi Valley. Sailing too far west he missed the entrance to the Mississippi and landed at Matagorda bay on the 16th of February, 1685; ascended the Lavaca river, and built Fort St. Louis.

The only inhabitants in Texas at that priod were wild and half-tamed Indians, numbering about forty thousand. Within two years LaSalle was killed by one of his own men and the Indians exterminated the remainder of the colony with the tomahawk.

The next attempt to colonize Texas was in 1690. The King of Spain sent large numbers of Catholic missionaries to Texas, with the avowed purpose of converting the Indians to the Catholic religion. These emigrants built what is known as Spanish Missions. A mission is a structure for a two-fold purpose—a church and a fort for protection. Missions were established in most of the important points in Texas by the Spanish colonists. Many of the Indians were converted to the Catholic religion. Inhabitants were concentrated adjacent to these missions in numbers sufficient to constitute large villages. During sixty-eight years the Spanish colonists dwelt in peace with the Indians. But it was a part of the Divine economy that the labors of these missionaries should come to a speedy and tragic end. In 1758, the Mission of San Saba, consisting of four hundred men, women and children, was attacked and captured by the Comanche Indians, and the entire population inhumanly massacred. Not one escaped—not even the delicate and refined female missionaries, who had been so kind. Human language is not sufficient to measure the enormity of such brutality, when we picture to ourselves the probable

scenes that occurred during that massacre. This inhuman and savage act so disheartened and terrified the missionaries, that in a short time all the frontier missions were abandoned. From this period on mission institutions were confined to three or four large towns, protected by a strong military force. During the period from 1758 to 1800, the Spanish colonists made slight progress in settling the province of Texas; but many terrific conflicts of warfare occurred between the wild roving Indians and other inhabitants. A narrative of the facts, in detail would fill a volume.

It is evident, at the present time, that it is a part of the Divine economy that Christian civilization or annihilation is the final destiny of the North American Indians.

About the year 1800, the Spanish Government, being jealous of the growing power and popularity of the Government of the United States, ordered the Mexican authorities to prohibit any citizen of the United States from entering Texas. Central Mexico, at that period, was a province of Spain. This edict of non-intercourse on the part of Spain was virtually a declaration of war. It had no other effect, however, but to excite the ambition of the citizens of the United States to enter Texas at all hazards. The natural wealth and beautiful scenery of Texas were so attractive, that large numbers of adventurous and enterprising citizens of the adjacent States, during the period from 1800 to 1821, invaded the country with various objects in view; some for the gratification of personal ambition and gain; others with a view to wrest the country from Spanish and savage misrule, and establish upon her fertile soil the arts of agriculture and institutions of civil and religious liberty.

In 1801, Philip Noland and Ellis P. Bean organized a party at Natchez, Mississippi, to invade the country with the avowed purpose of capturing wild horses. Noland

and party, to avoid coming in contact with the Spanish authorities, entered Texas high up on the Trinity, and erected a log house, and horse pens near the place, in all probability, where the Dallas court house now stands. On the eve of commencing their exciting and romantic chase, Noland and his comrades were surrounded by one hundred Spanish cavalry, who had been sent from San Antonio for their arrest. After a vigorous and stubborn resistance, Noland having been killed, the remainder of his party surrendered to the Spanish officer, on condition that the Americans were to be permitted to leave the country in peace. As soon as the Americans were prisoners in the hands of the Spaniards, they were chained in gangs, and marched to the Rio Grande, and confined in loathsome prisons, until they all perished save one, Captain Bean, who made his escape, and returned to the United States.

At this period a considerable number of Spanish residents in Texas became restless under Spanish misrule, and were ready for revolution and resistance to the authority of Spain. These men styled themselves Mexican Republicans.

In 1812 Lieutenant Augustus Magee and Samuel Kemper, who were Americans, and Bernardo Gutierrez, a Mexican Republican, and the Chiefs of three small tribes of Indians, conceived the bold and daring design of expelling the military force of Spain, and establishing a republican government similar to that of the United States. They accordingly organized a military force, which consisted of eight hundred Americans, one hundred and twenty-five Coshattie Indians, three hundred Lipan and Tonkawas, and one hundred and eighty Mexican Republicans, numbering in all one thousand three hundred and twenty-five effective soldiers. Magee, who had been a lieutenant in the United States army, was ap-

pointed commander-in-chief. The military force of Spain consisted of three thousand men, stationed at Nacogdoches, Goliad and San Antonio.

In July, 1812, General Magee attacked and captured Nacogdoches and the Spanish garrison stationed at that place. He then marched his army westward and captured Goliad. On the 1st of February, 1813, General Magee died, and Major Kemper assumed command of the army. Governor Salcedo was in command of one thousand five hundred Spanish Royalists, stationed at San Antonio. On the 2d of March, General Kemper marched his army in the direction of San Antonio. When within a short distance of the town, he was confronted by Governor Salcedo and his army. A terrific battle was fought. The Republicans defeated the Royalists with great slaughter, who fled into the town. General Kemper marched his victorious army in pursuit, and on the 5th of March, Salcedo and his command surrendered prisoners of war. General Kemper, Major Ross and Captain Hall, who were Americans, desired and intended that their prisoners should be treated according to the rules of civilized warfare, but their Indian soldiers, who had never been taught the law of Christ—"Do unto others as you would that others do unto you"—true to their natures, were uncontrollable in the hour of victory. To avenge some conceivable wrong, they slaughtered the wounded and disabled without mercy.

The Republicans lost nine killed and twenty five wounded. The loss of the Royalists was one hundred killed, one hundred and fifty wounded, and the entire military force stationed at San Antonio prisoners, with all their supplies and munitions of war. Among General Kemper's captives were Salcedo, Governor of Texas Simón de Herrera, Governor of Nueva Leon, and his brother, Geronimo Herrera, ex-Governor Cordera, and

ten other officers of high rank in the army. The victory was as complete and decisive as was that at San Jacinto at a later period. In less than one year the republicans had defeated and driven the entire military force of Spain from the country. But for lack of wisdom in council, statesmanship and diplomatic skill, the victory was barren of any good results to the cause of freedom or to the heroic victors.

While General Kemper and his command were indulging in voluptuous hilarity over the spoils of victory, one of his officers, Captain Delgado, whose father had been executed by order of Salcedo, by means of false pretences, induced General Kemper to appoint him commander of a squad of soldiers to take charge, for safe keeping, all the officers, prisoners, including the governors above mentioned. Captain Delgado marched his prisoners a short distance from camp, tied them all fast with cords, and deliberately beheaded every one of them, about fifteen in number. It is affirmed that Delgado and his command sharpened their knives preparatory for their cruel and inhuman work, in the very presence of their victims. When this inhuman act of treachery and barbarity became known to General Kemper, Major Ross, Captain Hall, and other Americans in the army, they feared the vengeance of Divine Goodness, and the verdict of enlightened civilized Nations. They immediately withdrew from the contest, left the country, and never returned. The Republicans elected Captain Perry their commander. On the 2d of April, 1813, another Spanish army, in numbers three thousand, made its appearance near San Antonio, under the command of Gen. Elisondo. The Republicans, under Gen. Perry, marched out of the town and assaulted the fortified positions of the enemy. After a furious battle of ten hours duration, General Elisondo retreated to the Rio Grande, leaving one thousand of his dead and wounded on the field of battle.

The able generalship of Perry, and the heroic deeds of his men, displayed on the field of battle, hath not been excelled in any military conflict on the American continent. Such heroes deserved a better fate than the one then in reserve.

Notwithstanding the many costly and humiliating reverses attending the Mexican Royalists on the field of battle, they were determined not to surrender the country to the Republicans, and they soon returned to the conflict with an army of four thousand soldiers in command of Gen. Arredondo.

The Royalists halted within a few miles from the city, and commenced erecting breast-works. The Republicans numbering eight hundred men in command of Gen. Toledo, marched out of the city to attack them.

Gen. Arredondo ordered his advance line to fire and fall back. The impetuous and brave Republicans suffered themselves to be drawn into an ambuscade, were surrounded by the numerous enemy, and inhumanly slaughtered.

Thus ended the first serious attempt to revolutionize and capture the magnificent Empire of Texas from the control of tyrants and savage barbarians, by men who desired to organize a democratic form of government, and establish free, civil and religious institutions on her soil.

An elaborate narrative of all the bloody conflicts on the soil of Texas from the first discovery, thereof, by La Salle in 1685 to 1820, would fill a large volume.

It is sufficient for the purpose of this narrative, to state, that from all the historical facts that we have been able to obtain from six of the most reliable histories of Texas, not less than two hundred thousand human beings were slain in the vain attempt to hold and obtain possession of the Province of Texas.

Wars and filibustering expeditions had nearly depopulated the country, in so much, that in 1822 there was less population than at the date of the San Saba massacre in 1758. Mexico in 1821, by a successful revolution became independent of the Crown of Spain, and Texas became a Province of Mexico. Great inducements were offered by Mexico to emigrants, to settle the unoccupied lands of Texas. The colonization laws of Mexico authorized the Governor of Texas to make special contracts for the introduction of Colonists. The law required that all emigrants should be of good moral character, and take an oath to believe and support the Catholic religion. They were then qualified to own land, and entitled to all the rights and privileges of a native citizen. In 1821 Moses Austin entered into a contract with the government of Mexico to introduce three hundred families into Texas. Each man was to receive 640 acres of land, his wife 320, each child 160, each slave 80. Austin was to receive five leagues and five labors for each one hundred families introduced, and the privilege of selecting the boundaries of the Colony. Before the contract was executed Moses Austin died, and his son, Stephen F., undertook to execute the agreement entered into by his father. He selected the portions of Texas within the following boundaries : The San Antonio road on the north ; the Lavaca river on the west ; the Gulf of Mexico on the South, and San Jacinto on the east. He accordingly brought to the country three hundred families and settled them in his colony. In the course of seven years he contracted and settled seven hundred more, making in all, one thousand families. All these colonists were persons of exalted moral character and intelligence. Austin, himself, was a perfect gentleman by nature and culture. He was appointed civil and military Governor of his Colony, and for twelve years his colonists were happy and prosperous.

From 1821 to 1832 several parties obtained grants of large tracts of land, on condition of introducing colonists to the country; but none were so successful as Austin. In 1832, the population of Texas consisted of 15,000 American colonists, 5,000 Europeans and 2500 Mexicans.

In 1824 the Government of Mexico adopted a constitution republican in form. The style of the Government was the United States of Mexico. Each of the provinces of the Central Government were to have a separate local government, similar to that of the United States. The constitution provided that Texas, at a near future period, was to be admitted into the Union as one of the confederate States. This turn of affairs inspired the colonists with great hopes. The American colonists had young children growing up, and they desired to establish schools for their education. They desired, also, to erect churches for free religious worship. These liberal ideas of the Anglo-American colonists soon attracted the attention of the Mexican rulers, especially the Catholic priests, who were "the power behind the throne." They were willing that the colonists should have schools and churches, provided the Catholic religion and the Spanish language were taught. To teach any religion in churches or schools but the Catholic, was in violation of the laws of Central Mexico. For these and other reasons the supreme rulers of Mexico refused to the colonists their just rights under the constitution of 1824. It is true, if it is strange, that the colonists had all taken an oath (save and except David Crockett) to support the Catholic religion; but they did it with a mental reservation; they labored and lived in hope that such tyrannical requirements would soon give away to enlightened freedom.

On the 6th of April, 1830, President Bustamente, having assumed the role of a despot, issued a proclamation

forbidding any citizens of the United States entering Texas; and that it should be unlawful for any foreigner to engage in any mercantile pursuit. To enforce this despotic decree soldiers were quartered in the midst of all the colonists. These and numerous other tyrannical and unjust acts of the Supreme Ruler of Mexico were confronted with the stern and unyielding hostility and contempt of the high-born, intelligent and liberty loving American colonists, and a large number of native republicans. Immediately bloody conflicts occurred between the colonists and the Mexican soldiers.

In 1832, Santa Anna espoused the Republican cause, dethroned the tyrant Bustamente, re-established the constitution of 1824, and was elected President. This sudden turn of affairs inspired Austin and others with exultant hopes of receiving from the United States of Mexico just and honorable treatment, as the newly elected President was popular with the Republicans and a pretended friend to Austin.

Santa Anna, on taking his seat as President, pledged himself to maintain and obey the Republican constitution of 1824, and to recommend such measures as would protect every person in his just rights under the constitution. This had a tendency to calm the revolutionary spirit for a short time. At this period, 1832, Sam Houston made his appearance.

Yoakum says he was "a man of extraordinary fortunes." We further add that he was also a man of extraordinary physical and mental endowments. He was, in height, six feet three inches, erect; weight, two hundred pounds; broad, open countenance; an eye like unto the eagle; a massive brain, large and prominent directly over the eye-brow, caution and combativeness strikingly developed. Of all Texans he was the most imposing in personal appearance. Stephen F. Austin had more

culture, and possessed a more refined and loftier spiritual image, but Houston possessed a certain grand and majestic look, that could be compared to no other public man that has lived since Washington, save and except Daniel Webster. No one who ever saw him forgot him. His eagle-eye read men at a glance. His grand and majestic personal appearance enabled him to control the excited masses at critical periods when no other person could.) At the first sight in 1832, his penetrating vision grasped the whole of Texas—her resources and capabilities of the then present and future; a grasp that was only relaxed by death. In addition to his natural gifts he had been thoroughly educated and disciplined for his great work. He had lived among the Indians until he had acquired a perfect knowledge of their language, customs and manners.

It is fit to state here the cause that brought him to Texas. When, in 1832, a war between the colonists and Central Mexico was possible, a message was sent to President Jackson, protesting against the immigration of Indians from the United States to Texas.

These Indians, and others that had been domesticated by the Spanish missionaries, had obtained land grants from the Mexican Government, and were liable to become allies to the enemy, as it was the policy of the Mexicans to induce the Indians to believe that if the colonists captured Texas they would be expelled from their lands,

President Jackson accordingly appointed Houston secret Indian agent, to proceed to Texas and persuade such Indian tribes he could to return to the United States and negotiate treaties with the others to be at peace with the colonists. In obedience to that appointment he visited every Indian tribe from the Sabine to the Rio Grande. His mission was so successful that the Indians were quiet and peaceable during the war of the Texas revolution. No other man had the ability to ren-

der such important services to the cause in which the colonists were engaged. The Indians, at that time, were able to muster three thousand five hundred warriors. Houston told the Indians that if they would be friends of the colonists that no white man would put sticks down on their land. It is a historical fact that not one of these Indians was the first to break the solemn treaty.

We here insert a letter written by Houston to President Jackson :

NACHITOCES, LA., February 13, 1833.

To President Jackson:

DEAR SIR—Having been as far as Bexar in the province of Texas, where I had an interview with the Comanche Indians, I am in possession of some information that will doubtless be interesting to you, and may be calculated to forward your views, if you should entertain any, touching the acquisition of Texas by the United States. That such a measure is desirable by nineteen-twentieths of the population of the province, I cannot doubt. They are now without laws to govern or protect them. Mexico is involved in civil war. The Federal Constitution has never been in operation. The government is essentially despotic, and must be so for years to come. The rulers have not honesty, and the people have not *intelligence*.

The people of Texas are determined to form a State government, and to separate from Coahuila; and unless Mexico is soon restored to order and the Constitution revived and re-enacted, the Province of Texas, will remain separate from the confederacy of Mexico. She has already beaten and expelled all the troops of Mexico from her soil, nor will she permit them to return. She can defend herself against the whole power of Mexico; for really Mexico is powerless to all intents and purposes. Her want of money, taking in connection with the course which Texas *must and will adopt*, will render a transfer of Texas inevitable to some power; and if the United States does not press for it, England will most assuredly obtain it by some means. Now is a very important crisis for Texas, as relates to her future prosperity and safety, as well as the relation it is to bear toward the United States. If Texas is desirable to the United States, it is now in the most favorable attitude, perhaps, that it can be, to obtain it on fair terms. England is *pressing her suit* for it, but its citizens will resist if any transfer should be made of them to any other power but the United States.

I have traveled nearly five hundred miles across Texas, and am now enabled to judge pretty correctly of the soil and the resources of the country. And I have no hesitation in pronouncing it the finest country, to its extent, upon the globe ; for the greater portion of it is richer and more healthy, in my opinion, than West Tennessee. There can be no doubt but the country east of the Rio Grande would sustain a population of ten millions of souls. My opinion is, that Texas will, by her members in convention, on the 1st of April, declare all that country as Texas proper, and form a State Constitution. I expect to be present at the Convention, and will apprise you of the course adopted so soon as its members have taken a final action. It is probable I may make Texas my abiding place ; in adopting this course, I will *never forget* the country of my birth.

From this point I will notify the commissioners of the Indians at Fort Gibson of my success, which will reach you through the War Department.

I have with much pride and inexpressible satisfaction seen your messages and proclamation touching the nullifiers of the South, and their "peaceable remedies." God grant that you may save the Union ! It does seem to me that it is reserved for you, and you alone, to render millions so great a blessing. I hear all voices commend your course, even in Texas, where is felt the liveliest interest for the preservation of the Republic.

Permit me to tender you my sincere felicitations, and most earnest solicitude for your health and happiness, and your future glory, connected with the prosperity of the Union.

Your friend and obedient servant,

SAM HOUSTON.

Houston, at the earnest solicitation of many of his friends, was induced to make Texas his home and share the fortunes of the colonists in their struggle for independence.

He and other thoughtful men believed at that early period that absolute and unconditional independence of the Central Government of Mexico was the only cure for the evils that the Texans complained of. Others, among whom was Stephen F. Austin, were desirous of applying to the Supreme Government for permission to organize a local State government under the constitution of 1824. The views of Austin and those who coincided with him (among whom were several Mexican republicans) prevailed.

In April, 1833, a convention was held at San Felipe, composed of delegates from the several municipalities, for the purpose of drafting a State constitution and a memorial to the Supreme Rulers of Mexico. Among these delegates were Sam Houston, Stephen F. Austin, Branch T. Archer, J. B. Miller and William H. Wharton. No superior body of men for patriotism, bravery and statesmanship ever assembled on the American continent.

Sam Houston was appointed chairman of the committee to draft a constitution. The constitution, as first drafted, was in compliance with his idea of republicanism. It demanded the right of trial by jury, the writ of *habeas corpus*, freedom of the press, direct and universal suffrage, free religion and free schools. That portion that had reference to free religion and free schools, was stricken out at the request of Austin, because he thought it would be offensive to Supreme Rulers of Mexico.

David G. Burnet was appointed to draw up a memorial to be presented the Mexican authorities. The following is an extract from the memorial :

TEXAN MEMORIAL.

The inhabitants of Texas by their representatives elect in convention assembled, would respectfully approach the National Congress, and present this their memorial, praying that the Union, which was established between Coahuila and Texas, whereby the two ancient provinces were incorporated into one free and independent State, under the name of Coahuila and Texas, may be dissolved, abrogated and perpetually cease; and that the inhabitants of Texas may be authorized to institute and establish a separate State Government, which will be in accordance with the Federal Constitution.

The honorable Congress need not be informed that a large portion of the population of Texas is of foreign origin. They have been invited here by the munificent liberality and plighted faith of the Mexican Government, and they stand pledged, by every moral and religious principle, and by every sentiment of honor, to requite that liberality, and reciprocate the faithful performance of the guarantee to "protect their liberties, property

and civil rights," by a cheerful dedication of their moral and physical energies to the advancement of their adopted country. But it is also apparent to the intelligence of the honorable Congress that the best mode of securing the permanent attachment of such a population is, to incorporate them into the Federal system, on such equitable terms as will redress every grievance, remove every cause of complaint, and insure, not only an identity of interests, but an eventual blending and assimilation of all that is now foreign and incongruous.

Austin was appointed by the Convention, to proceed to the City of Mexico, and present the Constitution and memorial adopted by the Convention to the National authorities for their consideration.

He arrived at the City of Mexico in June, 1833, and with a long low bow, laid the Constitution and the memorial at the feet of Santa Anna, with great expectations of receiving a favorable response. Santa Anna not being republican in form, or in reality, ordered Austin arrested and confined in prison without any charge of crime being preferred. In close confinement he was kept for two years. He effected his release by writing a letter to his friends in Texas laudatory of Santa Anna, which he knew was certain to fall into his hands. He re-appeared in Texas, and reported to his constituents the result of his mission. On the 8th of September he addressed an assemblage of citizens of Brazoria, in reference to his mission, which is too long to insert.

On the 3d of October, 1835, Santa Anna having assumed the powers of a despot, issued a decree suspending the authority of all civil officers in Texas, created by the legislative authority, and stationed military forces in the different municipalities to enforce the administration of such civil and military officers, as the central Government should recognize and appoint. The decree also ordered and empowered the military commanders to arrest and disarm all disloyal citizens. These revolutionary and despotic measures, in conjunction with the

imprisonment of Austin, stimulated the Texas patriots to rise in rebellion at once.

A military force was organized. Austin was elected commander of the troops. On the 2d October, 1835, a battle was fought at Gonzales, in which the Texans defeated and captured the Mexican garrison. On the 8th of the same month the Texans surprised and captured the garrison stationed at Goliad, taking twenty five prisoners, a large quantity of arms, and ten thousand dollars in specie. On the 2d of December, 1835, the Texans, in command Colonel Edward Burleson, (Gen. Austin having resigned to attend the consultation convention) attacked the Mexican forces stationed at San Antonio consisting of two thousand men in command of General Cos (Santa Anna's brother-in-law). After four days hard fighting, in which the Texans performed heroic and daring feats of bravery, General Cos surrendered with twelve hundred of his command prisoners of war. This important and decisive victory disposed of the entire military force stationed in Texas by the National Government. Austin, Johnson, Fannin, Bowie, Crockett, Milam and many other brave spirits, distinguished themselves by acts of bravery and submission to hardship. The brave and gallant Milam fell leading an assaulting column. General Austin, before leaving the army, requested Houston to take command, but he refused because he did not wish to interfere with the aspirations of others who had been duly elected to command. He, nevertheless, rendered important aid in a subordinate capacity.

Notwithstanding the first campaign in 1835 was so successful and brilliant, it was barren of results. A majority of the Colonists were still inclined to acknowledge themselves citizens of Mexico. Among whom was Stephen F. Austin. They were in favor of contending

for their rights under the Constitution and laws of Central Mexico. Many of the Colonists, engaged in agriculture, stock raising and other occupations, were apprehensive of a wreck of private fortunes, in the event that they should be overpowered in the attempt to establish an independent Republic.

Sam Houston and other bold spirits, such as Crockett, Travis, Fannin and others, believed that there were but two courses for the Colonists to pursue. One was, absolute and unconditional secession from the pretended Mexican Confederacy, organize a Republican Government, and defend it with their swords. The other course to pursue was, to abandon the country.

Houston and others did not believe that persons born and educated in the United States could ever live in peace under a government controlled and managed by such ignorant, priestridden and tyrannical people, as were the Mexicans.

Not having been permitted to have their own way, and being men in possession of great knowledge of human nature, they considered it according to the eternal fitness of things to let public opinion take its natural course.

On the 12th of November, 1835, a consultation convention assembled and organized a Provisional Government. Henry Smith was elected Governor; J. W. Johnson, Lieut.-Governor; Sam Houston, Commander in-chief of the army. A Council, composed of one member from each Municipality, was appointed. An organic law was enacted which empowered the Council and the Governor to organize an army and provide means for its support. The Convention passed resolutions, in substance, declaring war against the National Government, to be continued as long as the central powers withheld from Texas her

right to organize a State Government in conformity to the Constitution of 1824.

On the 12th of December, 1835, Gen. Houston assumed command of the army. Among his junior officers were Colonels F. W. Fannin, William B. Travis and F. W. Johnson. The army, at that period, consisted of 750 effective men, well armed and equipped. The successful campaign of 1835, that had recently transpired, inspired these fearless men with great enthusiasm and confidence of being able to successfully overcome any military force that the Mexican Government could organize. They were ambitious to engage in battle array on more fields of conquest, that would yield military renown and spoils of victory. Foresight and caution were no part of the valor of men, numbering only five hundred, who had in the short time of two months driven over five thousand Mexican military despots out of the country.

On the 7th of January, 1836, the Council were induced to issue an order appointing F. W. Johnson and J. W. Fannin, military agents, to organize a military force to attack and capture Matamoras, and appointed one Dr. Grant commander of the army. This illegal and imprudent order was issued secretly, because it was known that General Houston would be opposed to such an expedition.

On the 21st Colonel Johnson reported to General Houston at Refugio, and exhibited to him the order of the Council, and informed him of the plan of the intended campaign. The intention of the Council was to supersede Houston in the command of the army. After opposing the intended expedition with all the power and ingenuity he possessed, without effect, and believing his usefulness as commander of the army was at an end, he reported to Governor Smith and asked for a furlough.

We here insert a part of Houston's letter to Governor Smith:

"MUNICIPALITY OF WASHINGTON, Jan. 30, 1836.

"To Governor Henry Smith :

"SIR— I have the honor to report to you that, in obedience to your order under date of the 6th inst., I left Washington on the 8th, and reached Goliad on the night of the 14th."

After writing about some important matters, he says :

"The order of the Council, as set forth in the resolutions appointing Colonel Fannin agent, and authorizing him to appoint as many agents as he might think proper, did most certainly place him above the Governor and commander-in-chief of the army, nor is he responsible to the Council or the people of Texas. He is required to report, but he is not required to obey the Council. His powers are as unlimited and absolute as Cromwell's ever were. I regard the expedition, as now ordered, an individual, and not a national measure. The resolution passed in favor of J. W. Fannin, jr., and F. W. Johnson, and their proclamations with its original start—Dr. Grant—absolve the country from all responsibility for its consequences. If I had any doubt on the subject, previous to having seen at Goliad, a proclamation of J. W. Fannin, jr., sent by him to the volunteers, I could no longer entertain one, as to the campaign, so far as certain persons are interested in forwarding it. After appealing to the volunteers he concluded with the assurance that 'the troops should be paid out of the first spoils taken from the enemy.' This, in my opinion, connected with the extraordinary powers granted to him by the Council, divests the campaign of any character save that of piratical or predatory war.

"The people of Texas have declared to the world, that the war in which they are now engaged, is a war of prin-

ciple, in defence of their civil and political rights. What effect will the declaration, above referred to, have on the civilized world, when they learn that the person who made it has since been clothed with absolute powers by the General Council of Texas; and that, because you refuse to ratify their acts, they have declared you no longer the governor of Texas? It was stated by way of inducement to the advance on Matamoras, that the citizens of that place were friendly to the advance of the troops of Texas upon that city. They, no doubt, ere this, have J. W. Fannin's proclamation (though it was in manuscript), and if originally true, what will now be their feelings toward men who 'are to be paid out of the first spoils taken from the enemy.' The idea which must present itself to the enemy, will be, if the city is taken it will be given up to pillage; and when the spoils are collected a division will take place. In war, when spoil is the object, friends and enemies share one common destiny. This rule will govern the citizens of Matamoras in their conclusions, and render their resistance desperate. A city containing twelve thousand souls will not be taken by a handful of men who have marched twenty-two days without breadstuff, or necessary supplies for an army. If there ever was a time when Matamoras could have been taken by a few men, that time has passed by. The people of that place are not aware of the high-minded and honorable men who fill the ranks of the Texan army. They will look upon them as they would look upon Mexican mercenaries, and resist them as such. They too will hear of the impressment of the property of the citizens of Bexar, as reported to your excellency by Lieut.-Colonel Neill, when Dr. Grant left that place for Matamoras in command of the volunteer army.

"If the troops advance upon Matamoras, there ought

to be a co-operation by sea, with the land forces, or all will be lost; and the brave men who have come to toil with us in our marches, and mingle in our battles for liberty, will fall a sacrifice to the selfishness of some who have individual purposes to answer, and whose influence with the Council has been such as to impose upon the honest part of its members; while those who were otherwise, availed themselves of every artifice which they could devise to shield themselves from detection.

"The evil is now done and I trust sincerely that the 1st of March may establish a government on some permanent foundation, where honest functionaries will regard and execute the known and established laws of the country, agreeably to their oaths. If this state of things cannot be achieved, the country must be lost. I feel, in the station which I hold, that every effort of the Council has been to mortify me individually, and, if possible, to compel me to do some act which would enable them to pursue the same measures toward me, which they have illegally done toward Your Excellency, and thereby remove another obstacle to the accomplishment of their plans. In their attempts to embarrass me, they were reckless of all prejudice which might result to the public service from their lawless course.

"While the Council was passing resolutions affecting the army of Texas, and transferring to J. W. Fannin, jr., and F. W. Johnson the whole control of the army and resources of Texas, they could order them to be furnished with copies of the several resolutions passed by that body, but did not think proper even to notify the Major-General of the army of their adoption; nor have they yet caused him to be furnished with the acts of the Council relative to the army. True it is, that they passed a resolution to that effect, but it never was com-

plied with. Their object must have been to conceal, and not to promulgate their acts. 'They have loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil.'

"I do not consider the Council as a constitutional body, nor their acts lawful. They have no quorum agreeably to the organic law, and therefore I am compelled to regard all their acts as void. The body has been composed of seventeen members, and I perceive that the act of 'suspension,' passed against your excellency, was by only ten members present; the president *pro tem.* having no vote. Only ten members remain, when less than twelve members could not form a quorum agreeably to the organic law, which required two thirds of the whole body. I am not prepared to violate either my duty or my oath, by yielding obedience to an act manifestly unlawful, as it is, in my opinion, prejudicial to the welfare of Texas.

"The Lieutenant-Governor, and several members of the Council, I believe to be patriotic and just men; but there have been, and when I left San Felipe there were, others in that body on whose honesty and integrity the foregoing facts will be the best commentary. They must also abide the judgment of the people.

"I have the honor to be,

"Your excellency's obd't servant,

"SAM HOUSTON,

"Commander-in-Chief of the Army."

The above communication to Governor Smith is a truthful exposition of the intended Matamoras campaign, and the illegal and ill-advised acts of the Council. Governor Smith granted Houston a furlough. A copy is here inserted: "Your absence is permitted, in part, by the illegal acts of the Council in superseding you, by the unauthorized appointment of agents to organize and control the army, contrary to the organic law, and the

ordinances of their own body. In the meantime, you will conform to your instructions, and treat with the Indians."

The administration of the imbecile, corrupt and inefficient Council, convinced Houston and other prominent Secessionists, that the time had arrived for the Colonists to organize an independent government, having but one head, and to that head the people should yield willing obedience, especially in all military organizations. He not only negotiated important treaties with Indians, but he, in his intercourse with the people, in private conversation, as well as in public speeches, advocated the policy of calling a convention to make a declaration of unconditional independence, and to organize a permanent constitutional government, democratic in form. As was always the case, previous to 1860, when he appealed to the people, his efforts were crowned with success. Governor Smith and the Council were compelled to yield to the voice of the people, and an election was ordered to elect delegates to meet in convention at Washington on the first day of March, 1836, to organize a more perfect form of government. This was the first great and effective step taken in the direction of establishing, by means of a permanent government, free, civil and religious institutions in the territory of Texas. During one hundred and fifty years her beautiful and flowery prairies, from the Sabine to the Rio Grande, had been crimsoned with human blood in deadly strife in vain attempts to establish an organized government on her soil.

On the day appointed, the convention assembled. Sam Houston took his seat in the Convention as one of the elected delegates. On the 2d of March, 1836, a Declaration of Independence was adopted. One clause is here inserted.

"It" (the Mexican Government) "denies us the right of worshipping the Almighty according to the dictates of our own conscience, by the support of a national religion calculated to promote the temporal interest of its human functionaries, rather than the glory of the true and living God."

On the 4th the Convention re-appointed Sam Houston commander-in chief of the army "with all the rights, privileges and powers due to a commander in chief in the United States of America," and on the 6th ordered him to organize a military force and reinforce Colonel Travis at San Antonio.

On the 16th, the Convention adopted the Constitution of the Republic, and appointed David G. Burnet president, and Lorenzo de Zavala, vice-president.

When information reached the seat of government in Mexico of the inglorious defeat of General Cos at San Antonio, Santa Anna, at that period, the most popular man in Mexico, made stirring and eloquent appeals to the Mexican citizens to rally to the standard of their country, recover the lost ground, and wipe out the disgrace. He had no trouble in raising an army of eight thousand soldiers, equipped with all the weapons of modern warfare. A large portion were veterans in former battles. He selected his ablest and most experienced generals to command the different divisions of his army—such as Almonte, Filisola, Woll, Cos and others. The object and purpose that Santa Anna had in view, was to invade Texas, kill or drive every rebellious subject out of the country, confiscate their property, and take measures to stop further immigration from the United States. He proposed to command the army in person. The military forces in Texas, January, 1836, were one hundred and forty-five men stationed at San Antonio, under command of Colonel Travis, and six hundred stationed

at Goliad, San Patricio and Refugio in command of Colonel Fannin.

This military organization was on the eve of marching in the direction of Matamoras at the same period that Santa Anna was marching into Texas. The Mexican army consisted of two divisions, numbering four thousand each. One division, under command of Santa Anna, reached San Antonio, February 22, 1836. On the approach of Santa Anna, Colonel Travis, contrary to all rules of military strategy, retired with his command consisting of one hundred and forty-five men, within the fortress of the Alamo, and made preparations to stand a siege.

The armament of the fort consisted of fourteen mounted cannon with a good supply of ammunition. Santa Anna invested the fort with his militia, and commenced throwing up breast-works, and placing his artillery in position, with a view to bombard the fortress.

The Texans opened fire from the fort on the position of the enemy with their artillery. The Mexicans returned the fire with like weapons. A constant bombardment was kept up for twelve days without any important result.

On the 2d of March, Captain John W. Smith with thirty-two soldiers from Gonzales forced their way through the Mexican lines and entered the fort. On the 24th of February, Travis sent a courier to Colonel Fannin for reinforcements. For reasons never explained, Colonel Fannin never attempted to respond to the call.

On the 2d of March Colonel Travis sent a dispatch to the president of the convention, in session at Washington, informing him of his critical condition. He says: "I hope your honorable body will hasten on reinforcements and ammunition as soon as possible." After twelve days of constant skirmishing and discharge of artillery between the besieged and the enemy Santa

Anna called a council of his field officers and proposed to capture the fortress by assault regardless of cost. He divided his infantry into four columns, supplied them with scaling ladders, crowbars and axes, and placed them in command of his most experienced officers. His orders were carefully matured and given. He ordered each column to be ready at midnight to simultaneously assault the enemy's work. Owing to some cause of delay the assault did not commence until 4 o'clock Sunday morning, March 6th. The Texans resisted the advance of the enemy with undaunted bravery by the use of their artillery and small arms, causing great slaughter.

The enemy after several repulses, at the break of day, scaled the walls of the fort and entered the enclosure. When within the fort a desperate hand to hand conflict ensued. When the smoke of battle cleared away the Mexicans held the fort, and every Texan was a corpse on the field of battle. A great amount of sensational and unreliable pretended history has been written about this battle, first and last. But the exact particulars of the conflict within the enclosure of the fort is known, only, from the position of the slain at the termination of the battle. Travis and Bonham fell near the cannon they were firing. Bowie died on his couch. Crockett fell encircled with the slain of the enemy. Where a lifeless Texan lay, in close proximity were many of the enemy's dead.

The deeds of the Alamo martyrs considered only in the light of heroic daring and calm submission to fate, in all coming time will furnish prolific themes for the painter, poet and historian.

The loss to Texas of so many valuable lives was great compared to that of the enemy.

Santa Anna, at the period he crossed the Rio Grande with the first division of his army, being in possession

of information of the intended Matamoras campaign, ordered General Jose Urrea in command of the second division of his army, numbering four thousand men, to march down to Matamoras and cross the river at that point, and march parallel with the coast, in the direction of San Patricio and Goliad, in order to intercept the Texan forces, in the event they were threatening Matamoras. General Urrea reached San Patricio the 28th of February, 1836, surprised and captured the Texan forces stationed at that place, consisting of seventy-five soldiers in command of Colonel Johnson. The next day Urrea ordered all the officers and privates shot, except Colonel Johnson, who escaped by flight, and Dr. Grant, who was spared to care for the sick and wounded Mexicans. On the 16th the Mexican advance surprised Capt. King, in command of forty men, who surrendered to the Mexicans, after a slight resistance, prisoners of war. Urrea immediately ordered the entire command massacred. On the 17th Urrea, with the main body of his army, reached Goliad, at which place Colonel Fannin was stationed in command of three hundred men; after waiting twenty-four hours expecting an attack, retreated in the direction of Victoria; after marching his command ten miles he halted in an open prairie for rest.

During the time that Col. Fannin and his command were resting, the enemy had succeeded in completely surrounding him. Colonel Fannin immediately commenced making preparations to repel an attack. A furious and bloody battle was fought in which each assault of the Mexicans was repulsed with great slaughter. The conflict lasted until dark. The next morning Col. Fannin, being severely wounded in the fight the day previous, and finding his command still completely surrounded and his wounded suffering intense agony for water, after consulting with his officers, proposed to General

Urrea to surrender his command as prisoners of war on conditions :

1st. That we should be received and treated as prisoners of war, according to the usages of the most civilized nations.

2d. That the men should be sent to Copano, and thence to the United States in eight days, or so soon thereafter as vessels could be procured to take them.

3d. The private property should be respected and restored ; that the side arms of the officers should be given up.

4th. That the officers should be paroled, and return to the United States in like manner.

That General Urrea signed and consented to the above agreement, there is not a shadow of doubt.

In compliance with the terms of the capitulation, Col. Fannin and his command surrendered, and were marched back to Goliad, and were imprisoned in the old mission.

On the 20th, Captain Ward, in command of one hundred men, attempted to retreat to Victoria, but was overtaken by the Mexican cavalry, captured, and taken to Goliad to share the fate of the other prisoners.

On Sunday, the 27th of March, 1836, the officer in command of the fort received an order from Santa Anna to immediately execute by shooting Fannin and his men and Ward and his command, consisting of four hundred men. They were accordingly divided into four squads, and marched in different directions, a short distance from the fort, strongly guarded, and all shot. Those that were wounded were put to death by the sword. Several effected their escape by running amid the shower of bullets, some feigned death and escaped.

We here insert some of the particulars of the death scene of the Goliad massacre, as related to the writer by one of the captives. He said: "Not one of Fannin's

men would have consented to a surrender, had they not believed that the terms of the surrender, as agreed to by General Urrea, would have been strictly complied with. Before the surrender we were all conscious of our perilous situation, being surrounded by an enemy, four to one, and cut off from water. If we perished we intended that many of the enemy should perish with us. We intended to die with weapons in our hands, facing the foe. The order for our execution never was revealed to one of us. It was well for the Mexican force, then stationed at Goliad, that it was not. The Texan prisoners, then, were in numbers equal to the Mexican guard. Had the order for our execution been read to us, we would have risen *en masse*, and attempted to seize some of the weapons of the guard. There would have been, at least, a desperate conflict. We would have sold our lives at a high price. On Sunday morning, March 27th, we were all in good cheer. Who had been singing 'Home, Sweet Home.' I was thinking of soon having the pleasure of meeting my mother, brothers and sisters, in Georgia. I presume many others of my lamented comrades were indulging in the same reflections, as the most of the slain were young men from Georgia. When we were ordered to form into columns for march I was delighted. I supposed that we were to be marched to Copano, to be sent home in compliance with the terms of the capitulation. But when we discovered that each column of us were being marched in different directions, separate and apart, we suspicioned treachery. When the squad that I was in had marched a short distance from the fort we heard the discharge of musketry. Then, for a very brief period, we all fully contemplated the fact that death was our speedy doom. In less than five minutes after we heard the first report of muskets, the guard that was in front dropped in the rear and side of us. The Captain of the guard gave the command to halt, and before we

had time to turn around we were all shot. The greater number fell mortally wounded at the first fire. Some were only wounded and were dispatched with the bayonet. Several made their escape amid a shower of bullets. I was in the act of turning around when shot, and made my escape by flight. The moans and wails that ascended to heaven from the lips of some of those young martyrs will haunt me to my grave."

Santa Anna, by this unlawful and inhuman act, placed himself in the attitude of a military outlaw. These men of Goliad surrendered under a solemn compact, stipulating that their lives should be spared for a valuable consideration, and be permitted to leave the country in peace, agreed to and signed by General Urrea, whose acts Santa Anna was bound to respect; and when he ordered their execution he violated a rule of civilized warfare, and wrote upon his forehead with his own hand, cowardly murderer, there to be read by civilized man in all coming time.

Colonel Fannin had been ordered twice by General Houston to retreat to Victoria. The last order reached him on the 14th, five days previous to his surrender, which order he saw fit to disobey. This strange conduct, taken in connection with the other fact that he halted his command in broad daylight, in an open prairie, when he had knowledge that he was being pursued by the enemy with a superior force, renders his official conduct liable to unfavorable criticism at least.

The serious and deplorable military reverses at San Antonio and Goliad had the effect, from sad experience, as well as from necessity, to cause the entire population of Texas, for the first time, to yield their unconditional obedience to the orders of General Houston, their only legitimate military commander.

The sharp discipline that the colonist had experienced, resulting from the incompetency of military officers and

their disobedience to legitimate authority, taught them not only a serious lesson, but a useful one.

As has been heretofore stated, Houston, on the 6th of March, 1836, was ordered by the delegates in convention assembled, at Washington, to organize all the military force possible, and proceed to San Antonio to the relief of Colonel Travis and his command. The General, in company with Deaf Smith, his confidential spy, reached Gonzales on the 11th. At that place he found three hundred and seventy enlisted men, many of them without arms, and all ignorant of military drill, and destitute of ammunition or means of transportation.

On the 12th, unreliable reports reached the camp that Travis and his command had been overpowered and slaughtered. General Houston immediately ordered Deaf Smith, in command of a small detail, to proceed to San Antonio, and ascertain if the report was true; and wrote to the Chairman of the Military Committee, as follows: "I am using all my endeavors to get a company to send in view of the Alamo, and if possible arrive at the certainty of, what I believe, its fall."

When the mournful and sad intelligence reached Gonzales of the terrible fate of Travis and his command, excitement and anguish among the people prevailed in the extreme, as not less than fifty of the slain were residents of that place. The relatives and friends of these martyrs, not only bewailed the tragic end of the dead, but they were in great fear for their own safety, and they rushed to the headquarters of General Houston to be informed what they must do to be saved. "Obey my orders," was his reply.

Houston having received information, on the report of Captain Deaf Smith, that the enemy was advancing in the direction of Gonzales, and, as he considered, not having sufficient force to risk a battle, concluded to retreat to the Colorado, form a conjunction with Colonel

Fannin's command, and make an attempt to resist the advance of the enemy.

The General-in-Chief therefore advised the inhabitants to avail themselves of all means of transportation, and move east, in the direction of the Sabine river, taking with them all valuables possible and destroy the remainder.

At midnight, on the 12th, the panic-stricken inhabitants were on their flight east in the direction of the Colorado, followed by Houston and his small band of warriors, numbering 370. All the transportation available consisted of two yoke of oxen and one wagon.

On the 14th, the General and his command encamped on the Navidad.

On the 15th of March, he wrote to the chairman of the military committee, from camp Navidad, as follows :

"Since I had the honor to address you from Gonzales, the lady of Lieut. Dickenson, who fell at the Alamo, has arrived and confirms the fall of the place. I am fearful Goliad is besieged by the enemy. My order to Colonel Fannin, directing the place to be blown up ; the cannon to be sunk in the river, and to fall back to Victoria, would reach him before the enemy could advance. That they have advanced upon the place in strong force, I have no doubt, and when I heard of the fall of the Alamo, and the number of the enemy, I knew it must be the case.

"Our forces must not be shut up in forts, where they can neither be supplied with men nor provisions. Long aware of this fact, I directed, on the 16th of January last, that the artillery should be removed, and the Alamo blown up, but it was prevented by the contemplated expedition upon Matamoras, the author of all our misfortunes, but I am satisfied we can save the country.

"Encourage volunteers from the United States. We

must have the friendship of the Comanches and other Indians."

Truly, Houston could exclaim that the intended Matamoros expedition was a misfortune, because it was the direct and lamentable result of a loss to the Texan army within one month of 750 as brave men as ever shouldered a musket or drew a sabre, and all their artillery, ammunition and small arms.

The retreating army arrived at Burnhams, on the Colorado, on the 17th, and encamped.

On the 25th a courier reached the camp, bearing the sad and deplorable information, that Fannin had been defeated by the Mexicans, and had surrendered with all his command.

When this information reached the colonial settlements, it caused a general stampede of the inhabitants in the direction of the Sabine, and it not only had an injurious effect on the men in camp, but it prevented many from joining the army. When the soldiers listened to the voice of sorrow that came to them from their families, and witnessed their distress, they desired to advance and attack the enemy, or leave the army and go to their relief.

Nothing but the superhuman efforts of Houston could have preserved discipline in the Texan army at that critical period.

The Texan army, at that time, had been re enforced by volunteers until it numbered 650 men.

The Mexican army were making rapid marches in detached columns in pursuit of the retreating Texans. They were well supplied with means of transportation, and the nature of the country west of the Colorado was such that Santa Anna could have concentrated his entire command, consisting of 8,000 men in a short space of time. On the 25th of March, the advance column of the enemy, consisting of 800 men, had reached a point

opposite the Colorado. A large number of the officers and privates in the Texan army were in favor of crossing the river and contest the further advance of the enemy. But Houston being in possession of information, that his officers and men had not, concluded to retreat to the Brazos.

On the 26th, General Houston addressed his army as follows :

“FELLOW SOLDIERS: The only army in Texas is now present. Travis has fallen with his men at the Alamo. Fannin's troops have been massacred at Goliad. There are none to aid us. There is but a small force, and yet it is all that Texas has. We might cross the river and attack the enemy. We might be victorious—but we might be overcome. There are but few of us, and if we fall, the fate of Texas is sealed. For this reason, and until I feel able to meet the enemy in battle, I shall retreat.”

The same day, the Texan army in compliance to the order of the General-in-Chief, resumed the line of march to the Brazos, and reached Groce's plantation on the 28th.

Volumes have been written denunciatory of General Houston for ordering the retreat of his army from the Colorado, by men who assume the vain and futile task of attempting to reverse a fixed decree of Divine Providence, by fighting the battle of San Jacinto on the west bank of the Colorado.

Houston's reasons for ordering the retreat, and the vindication of himself against the written and verbal assaults of his enemies, the reader will find set forth in his speech at Houston in 1845, to an assemblage of citizens met for that special purpose.

On the 29th, Houston wrote to General Rusk, Secretary of War, as follows: “Sir: On my arrival on the Brazos,

had I consulted the wishes of all, I should have been like the ass, between two stacks of hay. Many wished me to go below, others above. I consulted none. I held no councils of war. If I err, the blame is mine. Send all the reinforcements of private soldiers you can, but no generals. I have too many now. Deaf Smith is out, and, if living, I will hear the truth and all important news."

On the 7th of April, 1836, Houston issued the following army order:

"HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, }
CAMP WEST OF BRAZOS, April 7th. }

"Army Orders—

"The advance of the enemy is at San Felipe. The moment for which we have waited with anxiety and interest is fast approaching. The victims of the Alamo, and the moans of those who were murdered at Goliad, call for cool, deliberate vengeance. Strict discipline, order and subordination will insure us the victory.

"The army will be in readiness for action at a moment's warning. The field officers have the immediate execution of this order in charge for their respective commands.

SAM HOUSTON,

"Commander in-Chief."

The General, on the 14th, upon receiving information from his scouts that Santa Anna was crossing the Brazos below him with a force estimated at one thousand men, and was marching in the direction of Harrisburg, determined to pursue with all possible speed, intercept and attack him before he could cross Buffalo Bayou.

At this period, the Texans received, as a present from the citizens of Ohio, two pieces of artillery which were named the "Twin Sisters."

On the 18th, Houston with his command reached Harrisburg. Deaf Smith, who had been sent out to observe

the movements of the enemy, returned with two captive Mexicans. One of the captives was a bearer of dispatches from Santa Anna. The information derived from this source, disclosed the fact that Santa Anna was on the west side of Buffalo Bayou in command of one thousand men, and had ordered General Cos, who was in command of five hundred soldiers, to reinforce him immediately; and that it was the intention of Santa Anna to cross the Bayou and march east. On the morning of the 19th, the Texas General, leaving his surplus baggage on the east side of the Bayou, crossed with his command over to the west side, and marched day and night in the direction of Lynch's Ferry. On the morning of the 20th, his scouts encountered the advance of Santa Anna's command numbering one thousand five hundred. Santa Anna was so surprised at the sudden appearance of the Texans, that he halted his command and commenced erecting breastworks.

During the day some skirmishing occurred between the contending forces, in which the advance movements of the enemy were repulsed.

On the morning of the 21st, Houston discovered that Santa Anna had taken position within one-fourth of a mile from his camp, at the edge of a skirt of timber. He ordered Deaf Smith to ascertain the feelings of the officers and men in regard to an immediate attack of the enemy. While his confidential spy was mingling in conversation with the officers and men, he carefully matured a plan of battle.

In a brief space of time, Deaf Smith reported that all the privates and some of the officers were anxious to charge the enemy, but that some of the officers were engaged in trying to agree as to who should be placed in command of the army.

Immediately after Deaf Smith had reported his obser-

vation, several of the officers waited upon Gen. Houston and requested that he would call a council of war. The General accordingly called a council of six senior officers, to meet at 12 o'clock m., and ordered Deaf Smith to destroy the bridge over Vince's Bayou, and report to him immediately. The council met at the time appointed. The General submitted the propositions to the council, "whether we should attack the enemy in position, or wait to be attacked." The two junior officers were for an immediate attack of the enemy. The four seniors were for delay.

Houston, at 3 o'clock p. m., issued orders to the commanders of the several divisions of his army to parade their commands in line preparatory to attack the enemy. Col. Burleson, in command of a division of infantry, was assigned to the centre. Colonel Sherman, in command of one regiment, formed the left wing. The twin sisters in command of Colonel Hockley were placed on the right. Four companies of infantry in command of Col. Millard sustained the artillery. The cavalry in command of Colonel Lamar were stationed on the extreme right. The entire command numbered 750 men.

Santa Anna had taken position with his artillery in the centre, supported by a portion of his infantry, with the remainder on his right, his cavalry of his left, and protected by breastworks. The entire force consisted of 1,500 effective men.

There stand the two armies confronting each other in battle array with a great issue before them to try.

Santa Anna and his men are the representatives of a race that had for a century repelled with the sword every attempt of enlightened freemen to plant the tree of liberty on the beautiful and fertile domain of the great empire of Texas, till the blood of one hundred thousand human beings had crimsoned her verdant prairies. They are,

also, the recent cruel murderers of 750 christian soldiers, who had been overpowered in their attempt to enforce their rights under a solemn contract by which they were induced to become citizens of Texas.

The Texans represent the highest type of Christian civilization, and civil liberty. They stand in line of battle, impatient, not only to avenge the wrongs of the past, but to strike such a blow as will free their country from bondage.

At 4 o'clock, p. m., Deaf Smith returned and reported the bridge over Vince's Bayou destroyed.

Houston issued an order, directed to the officers in command, to be ready to charge the enemy, that Vince's bridge was destroyed, which closed all avenues of retreat. "It is death or victory."

The commander in-chief, after invoking Divine aid, rode to the front, pointing his sword to the breast-works of the enemy, delivered the order, "Charge! comrades Charge!" "Remember the Alamo." "Remember Goliad," words that will be remembered as long as the world stands and will live through all eternity. Each division simultaneously in double quick time charged the entire force of the enemy; after receiving the first discharge of the Mexican artillery, the Texans advanced within short range and discharged their weapons with such deadly effect, that in twenty minutes the enemy were routed and fleeing in every direction, fugitives from justice.

The victory was complete. The loss to the Mexicans was six hundred and thirty killed, two hundred and eight wounded and six hundred and thirty prisoners, and all their munitions of war, including twelve thousand dollars in specie, and a large amount of camp stores. The Texans lost eight killed and twenty-five wounded.

Truly, the result of the battle was as fortunate for the Texans as it was unfortunate for the Mexicans.

The enemy were completely taken by surprise. Santa Anna and most of his field officers were asleep, as usual at that period in the day. Many of the Mexican officers displayed heroic courage in attempting to rally and steady their men in line of battle, but were shot down by the advancing and impetuous Texans before they could bring their men into action.

It seems that the hidden hand of the great Ruler was present in aid of the Texans on that eventful day, for the sequel discloses the fact, that while the great Texan General was at prayer God caused slumber to fall upon Santa Anna, which enabled the Texans to gain an easy and decisive victory. While the Texans, on the night of the 21st, were indulging in excess of joy over the spoils of victory, General Houston was at his camp, nursing his wound, and seriously considering how to secure the best result from the victory. He understood and comprehended the situation perfectly. General Filisola, Santa Anna's second officer in command, was at the Brazos in command of 4,000 Mexican soldiers, within two days march of the Texas camp. The men in the Texan army were demoralized and uncontrollable, their General was wounded and disabled from active field service. The sudden and unexpected attack of the Texans by the enemy, Houston was fearful would cause disaster to the Texan arms.

To prevent such possibility claimed his serious consideration.

A mistake or blunder, at this critical period, and all was lost.

The sword had done its work effectually on the 21st; on the 22d, wise statemanship and skillful diplomacy were in great demand, as that was the day on which the fruit

of the victory won on the field of battle was to be secured or lost.

The disposition to be made of the Mexican prisoners of war was the important subject that claimed the attention of the Texans on the 22d. Nine-tenths of the officers in the Texan army were determined that all the Mexican officers of high rank should be tried and shot, especially Santa Anna, who had not been captured on the morning of the 22d. This suicidal and inhuman policy Houston opposed, single handed and alone, from the start.

Houston feared that Santa Anna, in the event that he should be captured, would be killed before he could get possession of his person, but Providence interposes in behalf of the great cause of Texan independence.

Late in the day of the 22d, Captain James A. Sylvester, in command of four privates, discovered some person lying down in the edge of the marsh covered up with a blanket. He ordered the person, whom he thought to be a Mexican soldier, to rise. He refused and commenced making some movements with his hands, seemingly with the intent to draw a weapon. One of the soldiers was in the act of shooting him, when he suddenly arose and gave the soldier, who was a mason, the masonic sign, which was providentially the means of saving the prisoner's life. When told that he should not be hurt he seized the soldier's hands kissed it and wept. When asked who he was, he said he was aid to Santa Anna, and desired to be taken to General Houston, which was accordingly done.

When taken to Houston's camp the General was lying on a cot under a tree. The captive bowed exceedingly low, and said: "I am General Santa Anna, a prisoner of war at your disposal."

Houston requested that he be seated.

Santa Anna immediately proposed to negotiate for his personal safety. Houston replied that "he did not see how anyone that had treated prisoners of war as he had those at Goliad could expect to negotiate for clemency."

Santa Anna then put his hand to his heart and asked for stimulants, which were given him. He then said "he had orders from the Supreme Government to execute all taken with arms in their hands." Houston replied "that he was a dictator and had no superior; that he must immediately order all his military force to evacuate Texas; that he must sign a treaty acknowledging the independence of Texas, and agree to deal in blood no more upon her soil, forever; the details of the treaty to be left to Andrew Jackson, subject to the ratifications of the President of Texas and his cabinet. When these requirements were fulfilled he should be restored to liberty and sent home."

Santa Anna immediately wrote and signed an order directed to General Filisola, which in substance ordered him to retreat with his command to the Rio Grande; that the safety of himself and his fellow-prisoners depended upon its immediate execution. Houston ordered Deaf Smith to proceed with all possible dispatch and deliver the same to Filisola.

In forty-eight hours from the time that the order was placed in the hands of the courier, the entire military force of the enemy were on the retreat from Texas.

This wonderful treaty, made in the brief period of thirty minutes, and in opposition to four-fifths of the men that composed the Texan army, filled the measure of the victory at San Jacinto, commencing on the 21st and ending on the 22d of April, 1836, to the brim, heaped up, and rounded off. It liberated a great empire from the control of a tyrannical, ignorant, and unproductive

race, and gave it to freedom, religious liberty, culture, commerce and agriculture.

It was but natural that the friends of the martyrs slain at the dictation of Santa Anna should have demanded his execution.

That the reader may understand the feelings that animated the hearts of the opponents to Houston's policy of clemency we here insert an extract from a letter written by General Lamar, Secretary of War, to the President and his cabinet. He said "he rather considered him as an apprehended murderer than as a prisoner of war. The conduct of General Santa Anna will not permit me to view him in any other light." * * "His crimes being sanguinary, I would read his punishment from the Code of Draco."

President Burnet and his Cabinet arrived at San Jacinto from Galveston (whither they had fled from Harrisburg on the approach of the Mexicans), on the 3d day of May, twelve days after the battle.

General Houston, after having a consultation with the President and Cabinet, gave all the citizen volunteer soldiers leave of absence from the army. After thanking them for their patriotic services, he told them "to go home and go to planting corn."

On the 5th of May he placed General Rusk in command of the army, in his absence, and proceeded to New Orleans to obtain surgical aid for his wound.

At Velasco, on the 14th day of May, 1836, articles of agreement were entered into between David G. Burnet, President of the Republic of Texas, of the one part, and his Excellency Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, President General-in-Chief of the Mexican army, of the other part.

The agreement was, in substance, the same as the one agreed upon by General Houston and Santa Anna on the 22d of April, at San Jacinto.

The Cabinet was divided, but a majority favored the treaty.

The treaty stipulated that after Santa Anna had performed his part of the agreement, himself and all the Mexican prisoners were to be furnished with transportation home, by the government of Texas.

On the 1st day of June, 1836, in compliance with the terms of the treaty, Santa Anna was placed on board the *Invincible* with the intention of sending him to Vera Cruz, by order of the President of Texas.

When the information reached the officers and soldiers in the Texan army, that Santa Anna was about to be released and sent home, the excitement was intense. To add to the excitement, a large number of volunteers had recently arrived from the United States. Mass meetings were held, inflammatory speeches were made, and resolutions passed, demanding the disembarkation of Santa Anna.

The President being powerless to enforce obedience to his orders, yielded to the popular clamor and the prisoner was taken from the vessel and brought on shore and placed in charge of Major Patten, to be held subject to the disposition of Congress.

General Houston, when he arrived in New Orleans, did his best to discourage emigrants from going to Texas with arms in their hands to engage in warfare. He told these emigrants that the people of Texas had nothing to support soldiers; what they wanted most were farmers to cultivate the land to raise a support for the people. Nevertheless, large numbers came. When they arrived they had nothing to do and nothing to eat.

War had exhausted the supply of provisions to such an extent that many of the Texans were living on meat, without bread or salt. The result was, that the soldiers commenced to make forced levies on the farmers for food.

They took oxen from the plough, and milk cows from the pen and slaughtered them for meat. ✓

When the President remonstrated, the soldiers led by General T. J. Green and others held a mass-meeting and voted to order the President arrested. Gen. Rusk, being unable to control his soldiers, asked the President to relieve him from duty and tendered his resignation.

The President appointed General Lamar to succeed General Rusk.

At this critical period the honest and industrious portion of the citizens became heartily discouraged and alarmed. They had sufficient experience in bloody warfare and they desired peace and order. If they were prevented from making a crop, starvation was at their door. It was resolved to request General Houston to return to Texas as soon as possible.

When General Lamar assumed command of the army it numbered 2,000 men. The greater portion were recent volunteers. Most of the Texan resident soldiers had returned to their various vocations to repair their wrecked fortunes. As there was no armed enemy in Texas to vanquish the soldiers were without employment; but something must be done.

General Lamar contended that justice as well as public policy demanded the execution of Santa Anna.

To quote his own words, he said: "I have always thought, and still believe, that our sole reliance should be upon our swords and not upon the faith of Santa Anna. If the armies now on the retreat shall dare a countermarch, there will not be in the next battle a Mexican left to tell the tale of their defeat; and if another expedition against us shall be gotten up in the fall or the spring, there will come into our country such a cavalcade of heroes as will make their chivalry skip. The very first army that turns its face to the east will

awaken a war which will move onward and onward over the broad prairies of the west, knowing no termination until it reaches the walls of Mexico, where we will plant the standard of the single Star, and send forth our decrees in the voice of our artillery. I am of opinion that our prisoner, General Santa Anna, has forfeited his life by the highest of all crimes, and is not a suitable subject for the exercise of our pardoning prerogative."

He accordingly assembled the army, and submitted the proposition to the soldiers, whether the President-General should be retained as a prisoner of war, or tried by a military court and shot. A majority decided that he should be tried and executed. A detail of soldiers was sent to Columbia, where the distinguished prisoner was confined, with orders to bring him before a court-martial to be tried.

It is not surprising that these high-handed and revolutionary measures, on the part of the army, should cause many intelligent and permanent citizens to despair of Texas, and commence to make preparations to leave the country. It was apparent to all intelligent Americans that if the soldiers were permitted to trample legitimate military authority under foot, and override the civil, all was lost.

A solemn treaty had been made at San Jacinto between General Houston and Santa Anna, and was ratified by President Burnet and a majority of his Cabinet at Velasco. No one could say, in candor, that the authority to make the treaty was not the rightful and legitimate one. Nevertheless, the soldiers, led by General Lamar and General Thomas Jefferson Green, and others, proposed to use the military power to prevent the stipulations of the treaty being carried out. They had ordered President Burnet under arrest for attempting to perform his part of the contract. Now they proposed to set the

lawful Commander-in Chief of the army at defiance, and execute Santa Anna in violation of the solemn treaty made between him and the Government of Texas.

The excitement and alarm were intensified, by the well-known fact, that the Mexican army had halted at Matamoras, and were threatening a countermarch, in the event that the Mexican prisoners were not released according to the treaty. These facts and circumstances produced profound and gloomy forebodings among the honest and industrious people. They loved Texas and desired peace and good government.

Fortunately, at this critical period, July 1st, 1836, General Houston returned from New Orleans.

No shipwrecked mariners, imprisoned on board a vessel without mast or rudder, at the mercy of the angry wave, expecting that the next foaming billow would consign them to a watery grave, were more rejoiced on seeing a friendly bark approaching for their relief, than were the people of Texas on beholding the majestic form of Houston. In former perils they had learned to appreciate his wisdom; they now demanded his services again in the restoration of their distracted country to law and order. The solid men of Texas requested him to assume command of the army and promised him their unyielding loyalty and support.

Houston, being informed of the action of the officers and soldiers in the army in reference to the disposition of Santa Anna, dispatched Captain J. H. Sheppard with his written order directed to Captain Patton, at Columbia, who had the prisoner in charge, commanding him in language that "meant business," not to permit the removal of the prisoner. Captain Sheppard arrived just in time to prevent his removal. The august prisoner had been informed of the action and intention of the Texan soldiers, and when Captain Sheppard exhibited

to him the order of General Houston he wept tears of joy and embraced him as one that had saved his life.

The opponents of General Houston were reluctantly compelled to yield obedience to his authority, sustained, as he was, by sound public sentiment, and order was restored.

The following is a letter written to General Houston by President Jackson: "I take the liberty of offering a remark or two upon a report which is current here that Santa Anna is to be brought before a military court, to be tried and shot. Nothing now could tarnish the character of Texas more than such an act as this. Sound policy as well as humanity approved of the counsels which spared him his life. It gave possession of Goliad and the Alamo without blood, or the loss of any portion of your army. His person is still of much consequence to you. He is the pride of Mexican soldiers, and the favorite of the priesthood. While he is in your power the difficulties of your enemy in raising another army will continue to be great. The soldiers of Mexico will not willingly march into Texas when they know that their advance may cost their favorite General his life. Let not his blood be shed, unless imperious necessity demands it as a retaliation for future Mexican massacres. Both wisdom and humanity enjoin this course in relation to Santa Anna."

General Houston, after thanking the soldiers for their patriotic services rendered, granted them leave of absence which virtually disbanded the army. Some of the volunteers returned to the United States; others sought employment in Texas.

He then visited Santa Anna at Ora Zimba, and had a private conference with him. In a few days thereafter, he was sent with an escort to Washington, United States. President Jackson received him kindly, dined him at

the White House, had several private interviews with him and sent him home to Mexico in a government vessel. What occurred between President Jackson and the distinguished President-General never has been made public.

Order being restored ; the Texan army disbanded ; the Mexican prisoners of war sent home ; the country rid of hostile enemies and the planters blest with propitious rains, the desponding and gloomy hearts of the Texans were filled with joy and gladness.

In accordance with the provisions of the constitution that had been framed by the conventions at Washington in March, 1836, a President, Vice-President and members of Congress were elected.

Sam Houston was elected President ; M. B. Lamar, Vice-President.

Congress met at Columbia on the 3d of October, 1836. A regular organized government was put in operation, democratic in form, and patterned after that of the United States at a period when that Government was a pure one. The common law of England was adopted to govern the administration of justice when not in conflict with statutory provision.

The government of Texas at that time had no money in her treasury, nor did the people have any in their pockets. The currency in circulation consisted principally of yearlings, cows and calves, horses, hogs, and corn and potatoes.

The President, members of Congress, and other officials, walked in the light of patriotism; labored for the good of mankind, and drew on their private resources for a support.

The planters, being generous and patriotic, did not permit their public servants to want for subsistence.

Sam Houston placed his eagle eyes squarely and firmly

on the land robbers, and never raised them till he was consigned to political oblivion in 1861.

The war debt was estimated at \$3,000,000, for which the public domain was pledged. This debt the patriots of Texas considered a sacred and binding one.

In order to raise a revenue, the Congress levied a small import duty and an ad valorem tax, and authorized the President to negotiate a loan of \$500,000. An unlimited amount of land scrip was also put in his hands for sale.

The President not being able to negotiate the loan or sell the land scrip, unless upon terms that he considered would work injury to the public credit, and be an unwarrantable sacrifice of the public domain, enjoined the sale, and returned the bonds and land scrip to the treasury.

During the first year of President Houston's administration, only five hundred dollars in coin was paid into the public treasury.

The Indians were kept quiet by his masterly diplomacy. The planters made good crops, and at the end of his first term in December, 1838, the people were prosperous and happy.

The population of Texas at this period was estimated at fifty thousand.

One of the first acts of Congress was directed to securing the acknowledgment of the independence of Texas by the government of the United States, and if possible, annexation. The President was authorized to send agents to Washington to effect the desired object. On the first day of March, 1837, the Congress of the United States passed a resolution acknowledging the independence of Texas, the signing of which, was one of the last official acts of President Jackson.

On the 4th of March, 1837, Martin Van Buren was in-

augurated President of the United States. President Van Buren, when he accepted the nomination to be a candidate for the office, pledged himself "to tread in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessor," but for want of ability and moral courage, "Little Matty" never was able to walk in the giant steps of "Old Hickory."

In April, 1838, President Houston recommended the Texas Congress to pass a joint resolution, authorizing him to withdraw the proposition of annexation that had been made to the government of the United States. A resolution was accordingly introduced, but failed to pass.

President Houston then assumed the responsibility to order Anson Jones, the Texas Minister at Washington, to absolutely and unconditionally withdraw the proposition of annexation.

The President then commenced "paying court" to England and France, for reasons that appear in the sequel.

The second session of the First Congress of Texas, was held at Houston, commencing May 1st, 1837. The Presidential Mansion consisted of a log cabin, ten by twelve feet in dimensions, with a dirt floor, and mud chimney. The fire-place extending the full length of one side of the mansion. In this humble structure President Houston wrote his messages, and received Foreign Courtiers.

The Presidential Mansion at Washington is a grand and imposing structure, but it never had an inmate, since President Washington, that could preside with the lordly dignity and elegant manner as did President Houston in his humble Texas log-cabin.

This Congress, as a revenue measure, passed an act authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to issue an unlimited amount of treasury promissory notes, based upon the ability of the government to provide for the

payment thereof from the sale of the public domain. This measure the President opposed, because the notes were not made legal tender for all dues, public and private, and the issue limited.

On the 10th of December, 1836, Mirabeau B. Lamar was inaugurated President.

President Lamar's administrative policy was the reverse of his predecessor.

In dealing with the Indians and the Mexican Government, he threw the sword into the scales.

In his first message he said that "the sword should mark the boundaries of the Republic." A war of extermination against the Indians was inaugurated. Many of these Indians occupied reservations of land in accordance with a treaty made with Houston in 1833, and were driven therefrom, attended with great slaughter, and expense to the government.

The result was that the entire Indian population became hostile to the white settlements. During the three years of President Lamar's administration the frontier pioneers were constantly fleeing from the cruel tomahawk of the Savage.

President Lamar was a brave and brilliant man, a finished scholar and orator. To say he was not a patriot would be doing great injustice to his memory. But considered in the light of a Texan statesman, he was a failure. At the close of his administration in December, 1841, the public debt had increased from \$3,000,000 to \$8,000,000. This was a ruinous indebtedness when we consider that the population of Texas was only 55,000. The people were in a state of excitement and discontent, caused by the extravagant financial and war like measures of the administration. Even the personal and political friends of President Lamar admitted that many of his acts were unwise and injurious to the public

welfare, and desired a return to the Houstonian policy as soon as possible.

At the election, in 1841, Houston was re-elected President.

In his first message he informed Congress in substance—that the Republic was millions of dollars in debt, no money in her treasury and without credit. He attributed the cause to the worse than useless expenditure in fitting out military expeditions against the Indians and Mexico, and the purchase of a useless navy. He recommended that the navy be sold and peaceful relations restored with the people of Mexico and the Indians by the appointment of diplomatic agents.

He recommended that laws be enacted diminishing the number of Government officers, their salaries and all other expenses.

As a financial measure, he advised that the issue of the red back treasury notes, which had become worthless, be suspended, and instead, treasury notes be issued receivable for all public dues, and the issue not to exceed the amount of the public revenue. These promissory notes were called exchequer currency and were at par with coin.

At the end of President Houston's term December, 1844, there was a "cash balance" in the treasury after paying all expenses of administration.

During President Lamar's term there was appropriated for Indian expenses \$2,542,312.

During President Houston's term for the same purpose there was appropriated only \$104,092.

President Houston met the Chief of the Comanche Indians at the Cross Timbers, in the Territory, now embraced in Tarrant county, and negotiated a treaty of peace. The head Chief of the tribe surrendered to him his son to be retained as a hostage, that the stipulations

of the treaty should be observed on the part of the Indians.

This treaty was more effectual in preserving peaceful relations between the Indians and the Texans than millions of treasure expended and many precious lives sacrificed in military warfare. The most important measure of his administration was the defeat of a gigantic attempt to rob Texas of a large portion of her public lands by means of fraudulent land certificates.

Through the friendly mediation of England and France, at the solicitation of Houston, Santa Anna, who was then President of Mexico, agreed to an armistice which was acceptable to the President.

That put an end to Mexican incursions into Texas, and the consequent excitement of organizing military expeditions for their expulsion. At the end of the President's term of office peace and quiet existed between the people of Texas, the Indians and Mexicans.

In December, 1844, Anson Jones was inaugurated President. He was Secretary of State during President Houston's term of office. He entertained views in unison with his predecessor in all important measures. Notwithstanding Texas was virtually a free Republic, the Mexican Government refused to acknowledge it. To keep alive her claim was constantly threatening Texas with armed invasions.

Houston and those that were his adherents did not entertain the opinion that Texas was able to invade Mexico, and conquer a peace with force of arms. Annexation, therefore, to the United States was the important measure that commanded the attention of President Jones and his advisers.

The Texas minister at Washington was instructed to renew the proposition of annexation. In April, 1844, Mr. Calhoun introduced in the Senate of the United

States a resolution to admit Texas into the Union. As ex-President Van Buren who desired to be the democratic nominee for President, and Henry Clay who was seeking the Whig nomination, were opposed to annexation, politicians were very tender-footed and the resolution was rejected by a large majority. By the advice of Houston the President instructed the Texan minister to withdraw the proposition.

Diplomatic agents were sent to England and France with instructions to propose reciprocity treaties that would not only be injurious to the interest of the United States but would give England or France a controlling power over Texas. This measure was effectual in causing the democratic party in the United States to espouse the cause of annexation.

At the democratic convention in 1844, the friends of annexation secured the adoption of the two thirds rule for the first time, to defeat ex-President Van Buren. Mr. Van Buren had a majority of the votes but failed to secure two-thirds. After many ballots his name was withdrawn, and James K. Polk was unanimously nominated.

A resolution was adopted by the convention in favor of annexation.

Mr. Clay was the Whig candidate. The Whig convention resolved against annexation. The issue was presented to the people for trial. The verdict of the people was annexation of Texas, and James K. Polk for President.

On the 1st of March, 1845, a joint resolution passed both houses of Congress admitting Texas into the American Union, provided that Texas consented thereto.

On the 4th of July, 1845, delegates elected by the people of Texas met at Austin and passed a resolution assenting to annexation and formed a constitution. The

annexation resolution and the new constitution were submitted to a vote of the people on the 13th day of October, 1845. The measure received almost an unanimous vote. On the 29th of December, 1845, President Polk signed the bill extending the laws of the United States over Texas.

Ex President Houston's pretended opposition to annexation had a damaging effect upon his popularity. Many of his warm friends became his personal and political enemies.

It was a peculiar trait in his character never to disclose a secret that he deemed important to keep—not even to his warmest friends or nearest relatives. He acted upon the theory that one person could keep a secret better than two. President Jones and his foreign Ministers believed that the ex-President was sincere in his opposition to annexation.

The all powerful press was violent in the extreme. Editorials were written and published denouncing his policy, clothed in language of extraordinary vindictiveness. Large drafts were drawn upon the slavery excitement to inflame the minds of people. His enemies were confident that his personal and political popularity had sunk to rise no more. During the canvass in the summer of 1845 for the election of delegates to assemble in convention to reject or accept the proposition of annexation, he refused to be a candidate, neither did he oppose or advocate the measure.

Some of his personal friends in the city of Houston were in doubt as to his real position, and they invited him to address them on the subject. He consented. As the speech is historical and has never been published it is here inserted.

SAM HOUSTON'S SPEECH.*

"We have assembled to-day to take a reckoning of the present, review the past, and consult and exchange views as to what is best for the future. The greater portion of this audience know that since 1832, the period that I became a citizen of Texas, that I have assumed the responsibility of many important official positions, conferred by a generous and confiding people. How I have discharged the various important and responsible trusts thus conferred, it is the duty as well as the right of the people to judge.

"That my official policy and actions, military and civil, from and during the period that has passed between 1835 to the present, as commander-in-chief of your army, and as President, should have met with a just and fair opposition, is but natural. Men were born to differ as to the policy that should be pursued to accomplish an important object; especially is this the case when the object to be attained is of a public nature. But when that opposition consists of misrepresentations, abuse and slander, of a violent and personal character, it must be ascribed to motives not patriotic. At the very commencement of my military career I became associated with men of extraordinary patriotism, bravery and intelligence. I refer to Colonels Fannin, Milam, Travis, Johnson, Bowie and others; some of whom I have considered it my duty to differ as to important public measures. If I should say anything that might be considered as disparaging in the least to the reputation and memory of these gallant men, I beg of

*This speech was written down as it fell from the lips of the speaker by a Mr. Weeks, who was the first short-hand reporter in Texas. The newspapers all being opposed to Houston at that period refused to publish it. The writer obtained a copy from the reporter, believing that it was an important item to be used in the vindication of the truth of history.

the audience to believe me, when I say, I do it only as a means of attempting a vindication of my own character and reputation, against the cruel and unrelenting misrepresentations and slanders published to the world during the last ten years by a violent and unscrupulous press.

"It has been alleged, with great vindictiveness and vehemence, that I am responsible for the massacre of Travis and his men at the Alamo, and Fannin and his men at Goliad. That I, as commander-in-chief of the army, actuated by feelings of personal revenge, refused to reinforce Fannin and Travis, when I had the power so to do—accusations as cruel and malicious as they are false. I never had aught but tears to shed over the sad and tragic fate of those brave men and their companions. I am proud of the brilliant and enduring page of history that they, with their blood, have writ.

"When the consultation convention appointed me Commander-in-Chief of the army I felt it to be my duty to accept the great and responsible position. It is a well-known fact, to most of you, that I did not take command of the soldiers in field movements in person during the existence of the Government organized by the consultation convention. I was desirous not to do any act calculated to wound the pride and aspirations of those gallant men who had displayed such heroic bravery in previous victorious and successful contests. It is with painful emotion that I am compelled to allude to a subject that public policy has heretofore deterred me from mentioning.

"Soon after I was appointed to the command of your military forces Colonel F. W. Johnson presented for my inspection a resolution passed by the Council empowering himself and Colonel J. W. Fannin to raise and control, in the capacity of agents for the Government, an army to attack and capture Matamoras, and empower-

ing a certain Dr. Grant to act as commander-in-chief. At the first sight of the order I saw that it was an attempt to supersede me in the command of the army, and that the motive that inspired the campaign was spoils for private gain.

"The insult and mortification intended for me I pocketed for the good of my country. But I opposed the intended campaign with all my power, because I believed that an attempt to capture so large a city by so few men would result in a military disaster and the destruction of the participants.

"I very soon discovered that I was a General without an army serving under and by authority of a pretended government, that had no head, and no loyal subjects to obey its commands. I saw then that the blood of more martyrs had to crimson the sacred soil of Texas before the people would consent to organize themselves into a government having one head and yielding to that head implicit obedience.

"I therefore considered myself virtually superseded in the command of the army by an illegal act of the Council, at the solicitation of my inferior officers. I had, at that early period, reliable information that Santa Anna was raising a large and enthusiastic army for the avowed purpose to invade Texas, avenge and wipe out the humiliation and disgrace cast upon Mexico by the defeat and expulsion of her military forces from Texas. I thought at that time that the war would be a long and bloody one. I therefore deemed it prudent and wise for the army to be well organized and retreat to some advantageous point. To that policy I had no support. I ordered Colonel Travis to blow up the fortress at San Antonio and retreat, and, as I considered my usefulness in the army was at an end for the then present, I asked for and obtained a parole, and directed my attention

and what influence I possessed to the securing of a convention of the people for the purpose of adopting a declaration of independence and organizing a permanent government. You are all familiar with the action of that convention. The delegates thought proper to re-elect me Commander-in-Chief of the army.

“Santa Anna’s advance with from eight to ten thousand soldiers was so rapid that the intended Matamoras expedition was abandoned. It has been asserted, as I have before stated, that I am responsible for the massacre of Fannin and his command. I have even been called a cowardly murderer by the leading newspapers of the country, and repeated time and time again for years. I beg the attention of this audience while I cite you to facts and circumstances that prove this foul and cruel slander to be a premeditated falsehood. On the 2d day of March, 1836, I took my seat in the convention. I was absent from the army on parole for reasons that I have before stated. I did not have a soldier under my control. All the organized military force was under the command of Colonels Travis, Fannin and Johnson, consisting of about 750 men. There were some unorganized military gatherings in different portions of the country that were not in the regular service. On the 3d day of March Colonel Travis sent a dispatch to the President of the convention stating that he and his command were entrenched within the fortress of the Alamo and besieged by a large force commanded by Santa Anna, and requesting the convention to send reinforcements to relieve him from his perilous situation. He did not direct his dispatch to the General of the army because he did not consider that there was any such officer that ranked him. He also sent dispatches to Colonel Fannin imploring aid, because he was well aware that Colonel Fannin was the only officer in command of troops.

"On the 4th of March, one day after my re-appointment, and two days previous to the fall of the Alamo, at the request of members of the convention, I proceeded with all possible haste to Gonzales to collect all the armed force that could be found with the intention of marching to San Antonio and reinforce Colonel Travis. I arrived on the 6th and gathered some three hundred and fifty men fit for service, many of them without arms or ammunition. In the course of two days I received the lamentable information that Colonel Travis and his noble compatriots had succumbed to overwhelming numbers and had been brutally slaughtered. I immediately sent a courier to Colonel Fannin ordering him to destroy all his artillery he could not remove and retreat to Victoria, and informing him of the fall of the Alamo. Deaf Smith having returned from a scout reported the enemy advancing. I then determined to retreat and get as near to Andrew Jackson and the old flag as I could. [*Long and vociferous cheering*]. Had Colonel Fannin obeyed my order promptly his forces and those under my command would have joined several days before his capture and inhuman massacre.

"These facts, so painful to me to detail to you, I defy any high-minded person to come before me and an intelligent audience and deny.

"Travis, Fannin, Crockett and Bowie, were all brave and gallant spirits; they never, while living, employed falsehood and slander to carry a point or injure a character; their acts were open and bold; their policy of warfare was to divide, advance and conquer. My policy was to concentrate, retreat and conquer, and at this very moment could the veil be drawn that divides earth from heaven I cannot but imagine that these brave and manly heroes, bending from their exalted position, would

look down upon my insignificant and wicked slanderers with withering scorn and contempt.

"A vast amount of abuse is indulged in and errors alleged against me for ordering the retreat of the army from the Colorado, by persons inspired by passions of malice and hate only; yet in order to deceive the people, they assume the role of public benefactors. Cowardice and want of military capacity is the basis of the venomous criticism.

"It is gravely asserted by my enemies, that if the policy of certain military chieftains had prevailed the Texans would have crossed the river, annihilated the enemy and saved the people of the west from the ravages of war. If we are disposed to speculate in ifs, we may as well discuss the other hypothetical if. If the Texan army had countermarched, crossed the river and attacked the enemy, and been defeated, what then? Let the wails of the fallen at the Alamo and Goliad answer. Such speculations, seriously indulged in, are as unprofitable and vain as they are vicious. It is virtually an attempt to reverse the decrees of Divine Providence. The past is, at least, secure and unalterable.

"The only legitimate question that admits of serious discussion is, whether or not the retreat was in accordance with wise and prudent military strategy.

"When I reached the Colorado, on my retreat from Gonzales, I expected to have been reinforced with Colonel Fannin's command, and intended at that point to have resisted the advance of the enemy; but my plans were thwarted by the failure of Colonel Fannin to reach me. You are all familiar with the cause. I had reliable information from my scouts that Santa Anna was advancing with his army in detached columns. His force was estimated at seven thousand five hundred men well supplied with means of transportation.

"The nature of the country west of the Colorado was such that he was able to mass his forces with rapidity.

"The force that I had to meet the enemy consisted of six hundred and fifty men without artillery or means of transportation.

"I admit that many of my officers and privates did desire to cross the river at Beason's and attack the enemy, but no two could agree exactly how it should be done. After learning the views and plans of my officers and privates, I concluded to retreat in the direction of my reinforcements and supplies, with a hope of enticing the enemy to advance in detached column; and when he was in a position, surrounded with difficult water-courses to cross—at a proper time strike him an effectual and decisive blow. When I look back upon the battle of San Jacinto and its sequence, I consider it almost a miracle, and I am disposed to render due praise to God, the valor and bravery of the victorious Texans, and let it remain a fixed and unalterable fact forever. [Applause, long and continued.]

I am charged with the heinous offense of preserving the life of Santa Anna, when, as my enemies claim, justice and public policy demanded his execution. I should be inclined to forgive my assailants for some of their past sins, had they not ascribed to my act an unworthy motive. They allege that the motive that prompted the act was prejudice and illwill to Fannin and Travis when living. Nevertheless, I am thankful they give me credit for the deed.

"If ever there was a period in my life when every pulsation of my heart beat true time to calm and serious obedience to duty, in promoting the interests of my country and the welfare of future generations, it was at the moment that I conceived the idea that led to the treaty with Santa Anna on the field of San Jacinto.

"It was on the night of the 21st and the early morn of the 22d when I was confined to my cot in camp suffering from my wound. My mind was directed to the subject of how to secure the greatest good to Texas from the victory. Santa Anna and his command were overpowered and vanquished, it was true, but a large military force of the enemy, consisting of 5,000 troops, were advancing in battle array, within forty-eight hours march of my camp. Nor was Texas a free Republic.

"I was not unmindful of the cause of the failure of the Republicans in 1812, led by the brave Magee, Kemper and Perry. Their victories on the field of conflict were as complete and decisive as was the one at San Jacinto in 1836; but the lack of diplomatic skill and the inhuman slaughter of the Mexican prisoners ruined their cause.

"My motive in sparing the life of Santa Anna was to relieve the country of all hostile enemies without further bloodshed, and secure his acknowledgment of our independence, which I considered of vastly more importance to the welfare of Texas than the mere gratification of revenge.

"The clemency extended to Santa Anna and other prisoners was of great moral power in securing our recognition by powerful christian nations. It is unprofitable to indulge in speculation as to what might have been the consequences had Santa Anna and other Mexican prisoners been summarily executed and the Texan army left to expel the foe from the country in bloody warfare. There would have been at least many valuable lives sacrificed. But of one thing we are certain, that the treatment of the Mexican prisoners has received the approbation of civilized people and nations throughout the civilized world, and I rejoice that it is

not within the province of human power to reverse the act. [Prolonged cheering].

"It pains me, fellow-citizens, to weary your patience in listening to matters personal to myself, but I feel it to be my duty to notice one other unfriendly stricture upon my public acts. It is alleged, as many of you well know, that I was unfaithful to the interests of Texas and Southern institutions when I directed our minister at Washington to withdraw the proposition of annexation to the Federal Union and courted the assistance and good will of England and France. I have even been called an abolitionist by some of our scribbling newspaper editors.

"Will my fellow citizens pardon me for lowering myself sufficiently to notice these creatures. ['Yes, yes, go on,' from the audience.] This fellow Richardson, editor of the *News*; I don't know him, and should not if I should happen to meet him on the street. He hails, I am informed, from South Carolina and professes to be the champion of extreme Southern rights. But I am informed, also, (and I believe it to be true) that he is late from the classic land of wooden nutmegs, warming pans, blue laws, witchcraft and the hot bed of abolitionism. He won't steal! He is too mean! That is fortunate; for the inmates of the penitentiary are not likely to be disgraced and corrupted by being his associate. [Laughter and applause].

"The lying scribbler of the *Telegraph*," [Dr. Moore,] "is a one armed man. You never would forgive me for abusing a cripple, but I must confess that one arm can write more malicious falsehoods than any man with two arms I ever saw. His arm is more prolific for evil than the traditional bag that had seven cats and every cat had seven kits. The idea that such men should accuse me of being disloyal to the interests of the South; how

absurd! how illogical! I, who saw first the light of day in Old Virginia, educated in Tennessee at the feet of Andrew Jackson, and was taught in my infancy to love the South and all her institutions, social, religious and political. The love of the South is part of my very being. It grew in me with my growth from childhood to manhood.

“These men, however, in retailing their slanders, are compelled to tell some truths. I did direct our minister at Washington to withdraw the application of Texas for annexation and commenced paying court to England and France, for reasons that public policy has heretofore forbid an explanation.

“Nations, as well as individuals, are governed and influenced, to a great extent, by feelings of jealousy and self-interest. The proposition that was made at the early period of our existence as an independent nation, to become one of the Confederate States of the American Union, did not receive a respectful consideration by the executive or legislative branch of the government of the United States after President Jackson’s term of office expired, till the late inauguration of President Polk. In some of the Southern States, even where I expected the desired measure would receive a unanimous and warm support, to my great surprise, it met with a decided and insulting rebuff. Governor McDuffie, of South Carolina, sent a message to the Legislature of that State disapproving annexation, clothed in insulting language to Texans. Self-respect, as well as interest, demanded the withdrawal of all diplomatic relations with the United States in relation to annexation. I admit that I have recommended that treaties of reciprocity be made with England squinting even to the future extinction of slavery in Texas. When at the same time my only object was to turn public opinion in the United States in

favor of annexation. I can justify myself by the suggestion of a very natural supposition.

“Suppose a charming lady has two suitors. One of them she is inclined to believe would make the better husband, but is a little slow to make interesting propositions. Don’t you think if she was a skillful practitioner in Cupid’s court she would pretend that she loved the other ‘feller’ the best and be sure that her favorite would know it? [Laughter and applause].

“If ladies are justified in making use of coquetry in securing their annexation to good and agreeable husbands, you must excuse me for making use of the same means to annex Texas to Uncle Sam. [Laughter and cheers].

“I can truly rejoice with you, my fellow-citizens, that we have arrived at a period when we are permitted to turn from the anxious and checkered past, and behold the bright and cheering future. That our annexation to the mother country is assured, there is and can be no possible doubt. I consider the benefit to be derived from the measure great beyond the power of language to describe. We have an extensive public domain awaiting the magic touch of the planter to call forth its inexhaustible treasures, and when we are able to say to the civilized world that we have secured a permanent and stable government beyond all possibility of failure, numberless emigrants with large possessions of servants and money will flock to our shores.

“Large planters and men of capital have not heretofore had sufficient confidence in the stability of our government to risk large investments in Texas. Annexation removes the difficulty.

“As an inducement to persons to cast their fortunes in Texas, institutions of learning should be established, especially a wise and liberal system of free public

schools. After providing for the payment of our public debt, our public lands should, to a great extent, be set apart to create and support free public institutions of learning. The only obstruction in the way of this desired measure is our public debt, which amounts to from ten to twelve millions. This debt is a virtual lien upon our public domain; a part of which was contracted to maintain our armies in the field during our revolutionary war, and must be paid if it requires every foot of our public domain to do it. Texas never can assume a proud and lofty position as one of the United States and repudiate this sacred debt of honor. To pay this debt is a small sacrifice compared to the contributions of some of the fallen in the great struggle for our freedom. In looking back over the past we discover many noble patriots that labored in the cause with mighty arms, and when it became necessary, sealed it with their precious blood in death.

“And now, in conclusion, my fellow-citizens, as we are on the eve of taking a new departure, let us pledge ourselves, one and all, that we will defend freedom on the sacred soil of Texas forever and ever.”

No speech ever delivered was more effectual in reversing the feelings and sentiments of a people. Hundreds that came to the meeting, entertaining intense prejudice and hatred against the speaker, were disarmed of all political opposition—every emotion of hatred and ill will banished from their breasts.

The following is a letter written by Deaf Smith to his brother Stephen Smith, who resided in Mississippi at the date of the letter, but subsequently moved to Beaumont, Jefferson county, Texas, in 1842, and lived a

near neighbor to the author during fifteen years; from him the important diary of the famous Texan Spy was obtained:

FORT BEND, December 20th, 1838.

MY DEAR BROTHER—You do not know how glad I am to hear from you. The reason I have not answered your letter before is, because I have been absent on duty as a Ranger. I am rejoiced to know that you are well and think of moving to this glorious Republic. I am not enjoying the best of health at present, caused by great exposure in the army. You wish me to give you some information about the war; and why it is I am called Deaf Smith. I am a poor hand to write but my friend Jones, who is a good writer, has kindly consented to act as my amanuensis.

The reason they call me Deaf Smith is, because when I was among the Mexican soldiers or the Texans, I could hear well enough anything that my Old Chief desired to know, but could not hear well when I was asked about his plans and movements. My wife being a Mexican lady, and my constant association with her people, enabled me to speak, dress and act like them. Notwithstanding my education is limited, you know I was never accused of being a fool or a coward. I became acquainted with Sam Houston about the time that he was appointed by the consultation convention at San Felipe de Austin, in 1835, General-in-Chief of the Republican army. (He was a General that always slept with one eye wide open.) He sent for me one day and told me that he was apprehensive that Santa Anna would raise a large army and renew the fight, as the Mexicans did in 1813. He said that he wanted a confidential Spy to go to the Rio Grande and find out about the movements of the enemy, and he had selected me for his man.

The appointment exactly suited me, and I immediately left for Mexico. I penetrated the Mexican lines, and deceived them by telling them that I was tired of war and as my wife was a native Mexican I was afraid to live in Texas. I returned to Texas and reported to General Houston in January, 1836, that Santa Anna was raising a large army of not less than 10,000 men, and was coming to Texas, (as he said) "to kill or drive the last d—m American rebel land thief and murderer out of the country."

About the 10th or 15th of January, 1836, I was ordered by my old Chief to proceed to San Antonio and deliver an order to Colonel Travis to destroy the Alamo fort and retreat east.

When I delivered the order to Colonel Travis he read it and consulted with some of his men a short time and told me to tell Old Houston "that he never retreated."

Now, Brother Stephen, I will tell you about the condition of our army at that time. Davy Crockett, Colonel Travis, Colonel Fannin, Colonel

Bowie, Colonel Johnson and others, were brave and good men; they had fought like tigers in driving the Mexican tyrants out of Texas in 1835. When the consultation convention appointed Old Sam General of the army they were disappointed, and suffered feelings of jealousy to rankle in their breasts against their lawful Commander-in-Chief, resulting in the formation of a plan to supersede him in the command of the army.

In January, 1836, one Dr. Grant, Colonels Fannin and Johnson, secretly induced the Council (appointed by the convention to organize and support an army) to issue an order which authorized Colonels Fannin and Johnson to organize an army to capture Matamoras. Dr. Grant was appointed Commander-in-Chief. It was thought that this move would wound the pride of General Houston and cause him to resign. But it failed in its intended effect. Old Sam said to me, "Captain Smith, these men think their actions will cause me to abandon the cause of Texan independence, but they are mistaken. I love Texas too well. I love the soldiers too much to permit them to be led into a slaughter pen by these misguided men. If my orders are not obeyed I will obtain a furlough. I will not be responsible for the consequences that will be the result of the mad scheme "

The Old Chief, not being able to command obedience to his orders, reported to Governor Smith and obtained leave of absence from the army.

It was painful to me to see such good and brave men quarrel about who should command the army. Travis, Fannin and Johnson were daring soldiers, but they knew no more about how to command an army than does a hog know how to get to heaven. They were not put up for the job.

The convention that demanded our independence re appointed Houston our Commander-in-chief. He was to be a General just like Gen. Jackson in the United States army.

On the 6th of March, 1836, the General ordered me to go with him to Gonzales to get all the soldiers we could to go to the relief of Fannin and his men at San Antonio, who were surrounded by the Mexicans.

Santa Anna, in command of a large army, arrived at San Antonio and attacked Colonel Travis and his command while they were preparing to march to Matamoras. All the soldiers that the Old Chief could muster were about 350 men, poorly supplied with arms or ammunition. All the good soldiers, well equipped for service, were with Colonel Travis at San Antonio and Colonel Fannin at Goliad—about 800 men. In two or three days after we arrived at Gonzales, two strangers came to our camp and reported that Travis and his men had been captured by the Mexicans and all killed. Such weeping and wailing as there was among the relatives of the slain I never wish to witness again. It was sufficient to break the stoutest heart. Men, women and children rushed to the headquarters of General Houston to be informed what they should do. The Old Chieftain told them that the first thing they must do was to obey his

orders ; that no army could have but one commander, and he must be obeyed. Had his orders been obeyed Travis and his brave men would have been alive that day.

On the 12th of March, I was ordered by the General, in command of two men to proceed to San Antonio, with all possible haste, and ascertain if the report of the fall of the Alamo was true. About twenty miles on our way we met Mr. Dickinson, wife of Lieutenant Dickenson who was killed. Mrs. Dickenson confirmed the sad tidings reported the day previous. I escorted her to the headquarters of the General, and reported to him that the Mexican army were advancing in the direction of Gonzales. The General immediately sent a courier with an order to Colonel Fannin to retreat to Victoria. On the 13th our General advised the inhabitants to move in the direction of the Sabine, and followed himself with his small army in the same direction. In the meantime I was ordered to scour the country and report to him all movements of the enemy. On the 6th of April I reported to the General in camp on the Brazos that the advance of the Mexican army were on the 2d of April at Gonzales, making rapid marches. On the 12th I reported to the General that many of the officers and men in the army were abusing him for retreating from the Colorado, and threatened to disobey orders if there is any more retreating. On the 18th of April I captured two Mexicans and took them to my Old Chief's camp at Harrisburg. Upon their persons were found dispatches from Santa Anna that enabled our General to find out all about the plans and movements of the Mexican General.

On the morning of the 21st of April, the day of the battle, General Houston sent for me to come to his camp. He told me he was determined to attack the enemy that day. He ordered me to go among the officers and privates and report to him the disposition of the men for a fight. I reported to him that the privates and all the low grade of officers were anxious to attack the enemy ; that many of the officers of high rank were devising some plan to supersede him in command before the battle, but could not agree upon their man.

The Old Chief then ordered me to destroy Vince's bridge over Sim's bayou and report to him in double quick time. I reported to him at 4 o'clock that the bridge was destroyed. He then ordered me to inform the officers to form their commands in line of battle and prepare to charge the enemy. Vince's bridge was destroyed. "It was death or victory." The General after kneeling beside a tree and praying to God to give us the victory, said to me (he was about to order an attack and lead it in person ; he had been accused of being a coward ; the time had arrived to test the true courage of all) : "Take care of yourself, Captain, and do your duty." He then rode in front of the centre column, pointing to the breastworks of the enemy, gave the command, "Charge, men, charge ! Remember the

Alamo! Remember Goliad!" At the flash of the Mexican cannon all the Texans (except General Houston and a few other mounted officers) fell to the ground. In ten minutes thereafter the Mexicans were routed and fleeing from the field of battle. When the Old Chief was wounded he was advancing upon the works of the enemy, leading the charge.

The Mexicans were completely surprised. Santa Anna and most of his officers were asleep, a fact well known to Houston when he concluded to commence the fight.

When it was reported to General Houston that the Texans were shooting the Mexicans when pleading for quarters, he sent for me and said: "I desire you to inform all officers and men, that it is the order of the Commander-in-Chief of the army, that none of the enemy be shot who desire to surrender. If Texans desire the approbation of mankind they must be generous in the hour of victory. Uncivilized tyrants only slaughter their captives." I immediately delivered the verbal order to all I could find. The first officer I met was Captain Allen who obeyed it and directly took about one hundred prisoners, including General Almonte and several other Mexican officers. The Texans thought that the cruel acts of Santa Anna justified them in refusing to permit the Mexicans to surrender.

The Old Chief thought differently, and every day I live I see more clearly that he was right.

I must confess that my heart sickened at seeing the ignorant Mexicans shot holding up their hands and crying, "me no Alamo! me no Alamo!"

Nine-tenths of the officers and men were determined that Santa Anna, at any risk, should receive no quarter. But the General desired to get possession of his person alive. A lucky circumstance permitted Houston to have his way.

The next day after the battle Captain Sylvester in command of a squad of men saw some one lying down in some high grass. The then unknown person was commanded to rise, but refused. When one of the soldiers was in the act of shooting him he arose and gave the soldier the masonic sign, which caused the soldier to withhold his fire. The unknown person proved to be Santa Anna.

Old Sam says that it was Divine Providence that saved his life. I think that it was the Masonic grip. The prisoner was taken to the General's camp, where he introduced himself as General Santa Anna, and prayed for mercy.

Houston made him think at first that he was going to do something terrible. After about thirty minutes conversation the Old Chief said to him, "That he must write an order commanding all his soldiers to retreat to Mexico, acknowledge the independence of Texas, and agree to fight Texans no more, and his life should be spared."

Santa Anna immediately wrote the order. I was ordered by the General to deliver it to General Filisola, on the Brazos, in quick time.

The clamor for the blood of Santa Anna was so intense that the General ordered his tent to be placed near his camp and guarded by trusty sentinels. After a few days many sensible and humane persons saw that the Old Chief was right.

I solemnly believe that no other man could have saved the people of Texas from destruction at that time. The Texans were wild with excitement over the victory, and were unwilling to obey orders. Gen. Filisola had 5,000 Mexican soldiers on the Brazos, and had he marched into our camp in the condition of our army, Houston feared would result in disaster to our cause. It was only his great and wonderful Generalship that prevented it.

It would take me a long time to tell you of all the narrow escapes from capture and death I met with in the service acting as a Spy. I just naturally loved the excitement.

I hope soon to see you in Texas. Come to the best poor man's country on earth. A country that makes a man a good living without work. The grass that grows spontaneous in summer and winter makes your meat, milk and butter. The mast makes your bacon; the hollow trees furnish you honey and the ground furnishes you with roots for bread. If you want any more a very little work makes it. The land is free; you can have 640 acres by stopping over night on it.

I must end my writing; when I see you I will tell you more.

I am truly yours,

ERASTUS SMITH.

The first State Legislature met at Austin on the 19th of February, 1846. Ex-President Houston and General Thomas J. Rusk were elected United States Senators without opposition.

To provide means to cancel the revolutionary debt of the Republic of Texas was the first great measure that claimed the attention of Senator Houston.

In order to accomplish that desired object he proposed to the government of the United States to cede the disputed Santa Fe territory in consideration of \$15,000,000. The proposition was violently resisted by Governor Wood and his successor, Governor Bell.

The principal ground of the opposition was, that if

jurisdiction of the territory was acquired by the United States it would become a free State.

In 1850 Congress passed a bill appropriating \$10,000,000 to pay for the Territory, provided that the State of Texas consented to the cession. The proposition was submitted to the vote of the people. All the leading newspapers and the greater number of leading politicians opposed the sale. After a full discussion the bargain was sanctioned by the popular vote.

The following is an extract from a speech delivered by Senator Houston during the canvass. He said: " * * * * The charge that I am the father of this measure I shall not undertake to evade. I am willing to shoulder the responsibility. Justice and truth, however, require me to acknowledge the faithful and able assistance of my colleague, General Rusk. It is asserted by the opponents to the cession of this Territory that we are yielding to the demands of the Free Soil party. That idea ought not, should not, have the weight of a feather in the decision of the question now under consideration. Planters will not take their servants to that sandy dessert if it remains within the jurisdiction of Texas. We will have sufficient rich and desirable land left to satisfy the demands of every slaveholder in the universe. The motive that moves me to advocate this measure is to raise funds to discharge our public debt which amounts, I am informed, to \$11,000,000 at least, in the hands of clamorous creditors, who claim that it is a valid lien upon our public domain. Our entire public lands to day would not sell for a sum in cash sufficient to discharge one-fourth of the face value of our indebtedness.

"The State of Texas is in the condition of an embarrassed debtor. Her powerful creditors are in position, as is always the case, to dictate their own terms. If this measure is defeated we will not have a foot of land

to call our own. With \$10,000,000 cash in our treasury we will be able to say to our creditors we are ready to pay you every cent we justly and equitably owe you and no more. I hold that it is just and right for a State as well as individuals, to pay only for value received. A creditor that received two dollars in red backs for one dollar in services rendered, ought in justice to surrender in payment two dollars in red backs for one in coin. Some paid attorneys say this is repudiation, acting in bad faith, and the like. In reply to such assertion I have only to say, that the people have a right to protect themselves against the cruel and unjust exactions of their creditors. The same power that enacted that the red backs, when they were worth only fifty cents on the dollar, should be paid out over the counter of the treasury, two for one, has a right to enact that they shall be redeemed in the same ratio.

“The people are of right all powerful—they are a law unto themselves; and when they fail to make use of their inherent power, to protect themselves against the unjust encroachments of combined capital, their liberties will have departed.

“If our debt is scaled down to its just and equitable dimensions, it will be diminished one-half. With \$10,000,000 cash in our hands, we can pay it, and have a large surplus left, and what is of greater importance, our land will be free from incumbrance.

“I believe that for a free people to remain free, they must have free schools. I would recommend, therefore, that a large portion of our spare cash, and the greater part of our public domain should be set apart for that purpose * * * .”

The red-backs and other claims had been purchased by a few men of capital, at a price averaging about ten cents on the dollar. In 1853 a bill was introduced into

the State legislature to scale the debt down to \$5,500,000. After meeting with great opposition on the part of the creditors it passed by only one majority, and finally became a law.

In accordance with terms of the law the national debt of Texas was cancelled. The grand results that inured to the good of Texas from the measure, we behold in our railroads, our asylums for the unfortunate, the enormous amount of money and land donated to institutions of learning, and the "cash balance" in our treasury.

In 1859 the sectional strife between the north and the south upon the subject of slavery became warm and excited. Governor H. R. Runnells was placed in nomination for re-election by the democrats of extreme southern rights proclivities.)

Houston entered the race as a Jackson democrat. The grounds of opposition to General Houston, as alleged by Governor Runnells and his friends, were his advocacy of the sale of the Santa Fe territory, and his vote on the Kansas-Nebraska bill.

Houston and Runnells met in joint discussion in Eastern Texas, the home of Governor Runnells. The first fire of the "Old Roman," drove his opponent from the field of debate. Senator Louis T. Wigfall, considered the foremost political orator in the State, assumed to represent Governor Runnells on the stump. Houston would not consent to meet Senator Wigfall in joint discussion; nevertheless, the Senator followed in his wake, and answered all his speeches. A thorough canvass of the State was made, resulting in the election of General Houston by a large majority.

In 1853 a delegation of ministers, having knowledge that Senator Houston had joined the Sons of Temperance, called upon him in eastern Texas on his way home from Congress, and requested him to bestow his influence and

aid to secure the enactment of a Sunday and prohibition law. The following is his reply :

"I agree with you that any unnecessary amusement that is calculated to disturb and annoy persons engaged in religious worship on the Christian Sabbath is wrong and censurable, such as horse racing, gambling of all devices, and indulging in the social glass in public.

"You request me to use my influence and exertion, such as I possess, to induce the Legislature to enact a law to effect the suppression of the same. I understand by that you desire the law-making power to declare it a penal offense for persons to do and perform certain acts on a particular day.

"In reply, I hold and maintain that it is far better to endure and suffer from the ills of even a great evil than to violate, in the least, a vital principle of civil and religious liberty.

"When tyrants ask you to yield one jot of your liberty, and you consent thereto, it is the first link forged in the chain that will eventually hold you in bondage.

"The Irish, that noble race, so prolific of brave warriors, grand statesmen and brilliant orators, whose deeds of bravery have immortalized every battlefield over which waved the British flag, permitted the English lords to be centuries in forging their fetters inch by inch, here a little and there a little, till to-day they are in helpless bondage.

"The time to resist the encroachments of tyranny is at the incipient stage thereof. The constitution of the United States says : ' Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free use thereof.' Our State constitution says : ' Ministers of the gospel being by their profession dedicated to God and the care of souls ought not to be diverted from the great duties of their functions ; therefore no minis-

ter of the gospel or priest of any denomination whatever shall be eligible to the legislature.'

"The clause in our State constitution just quoted, disfranchising clergymen, I think is an abridgment of religious liberty. Had I been a member of the constitutional convention I should not have given it my support. It violates the very principle intended to protect, inasmuch as it recognizes the right to control the free enjoyment of religious belief by law. The men, many of them that framed and voted for it, were smarting from the effects of the tyrannical acts of the Mexican Catholic priesthood, which was the cause, I have no doubt, that inspired the enactment.

"I wish to be understood in my remarks, that I have no prejudice against the persons embracing the Catholic faith that would debar me from according to them the same rights due to any other denomination or Christians, or any other religious creed.

"History teaches us that men composing all denominations of religious faith, when clothed with ecclesiastical and temporal power combined, have been tyrants.

"Now, any law made by the law-making power of the State, intended to regulate a person's religious or civil conduct on Sunday, is in violation of the spirit of the constitution of the United States, if not the letter. That clause was placed there by wise men; men who had been careful students of history. They determined that their beloved country should not be the bloody battleground of religious enthusiasts. They were not ignorant of the early colonial history—a history that disclosed the fact, that the New England colonists enacted and enforced laws compelling persons to observe and subscribe to a particular religious fate. Laws were enacted regulating all persons' conduct on Sunday, which were so severe that people dared not prepare food for nourish-

ment. They were compelled to prepare the traditional Indian pudding and baked beans on Saturday to be served up cold on Sunday. It is asserted that laws declaring Sunday the first day of the week, a day of rest, and it to be unlawful for any person to do certain acts on that day, that are lawful on week days, are not in violation of the spirit or letter of the constitution, because it is necessary for the moral and physical good of man to rest one day out of seven.

“Let us suppose that the Quakers, the Jews, the Seventh-day Baptists, and others that believe that Saturday, the seventh day, is the day that God set apart as a day of rest and holy observance, should combine and get control of the legislative branch of the government, and should enact that all persons should abstain from labor, sale or barter of any goods, wares or merchandise on that day under pain and penalties affixed thereto. What do you suppose that the religious people, who believe that the first day of the week is the day that Christ ordained as the day of sacred rest, would say about such a law as that? Would not they all proclaim that such a law was in violation of the constitution because it in effect abolished the Christian Sabbath as a day of rest and divine worship, thereby interfering with the free exercise of religious worship? They would rebel against the enforcement of such a law, and claim their rights guaranteed by the sacred enactment of the law of the land, which declares that the free use of religious worship shall not be prohibited. We must remember that this is a land of equal rights to the Jews as well as the Gentiles.

“The laws of Mexico intended to prescribe and regulate a person's religious belief, was the first moving cause that inspired the Texas patriots to draw their

swords in defense of enlightened freedom and religious toleration.

"The men that fought for and won her independence dedicated her soil to be the abode and dwelling place of freemen of every kindred and tongue, coming from all nations to enjoy, unmolested, as they may think proper, the religious views and customs taught them in their native land. Our friends, the Germans, are a class of emigrants I have made great exertions to secure. They purchase our land and pay us cash. Some of them have settled on land that was considered unproductive without irrigation. Through their skill and industry this dormant soil blossoms like the rose and brings forth immense treasures of wealth. When in our distress we beckoned these peaceable, intelligent and hardy pioneers to our shores, we promised them an asylum of freedom.

"I never can give my consent to the passage of any law intended to regulate the manner in which they or any other class of people shall observe Sunday. Such an act would be in bad faith, and I not only refuse to advocate such a measure, but interpose my solemn protest. When a government like ours undertakes to declare certain acts of individuals unlawful that a considerable portion thereof honestly believes is an abridgement of their inalienable rights, it cannot be enforced, and is calculated to lessen the respect that citizens should have have for the laws of their country.

"In regard to the suppression of the evils of intemperance by legislative enactments, I should give the measure my sanction and support, if I thought it were possible to accomplish the object in that manner. I have given the matter some thought, and I have come to the conclusion that there are insurmountable obstacles in the way. In the first place, if you prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors in one county, the article will be obtained from

the adjoining one; if the state abolishes the traffic in ardent spirits, importation of the same from the neighboring states will be resorted to. If the congress of the United States should prohibit the manufacture and sale, importations from foreign countries would take place. If congress should pass a law, forbidding the importation, it would involve the government in a war with nationalities where treaties have been formed.

“Opium is as injurious to the mental and physical well being of mankind as intoxicating drink. A short period past the use of opium by the Chinese became so extensive and injurious that the Emperor issued an edict, ordering the ports of China closed against the introduction of opium for sale. That act of the Emperor the English government declared to be a declaration of war against England, because her people were extensively engaged in the manufacture and exportation of the same to China for sale, and the Queen sent her navy over there and responded to the Emperor’s proclamation with the voice of her cannon. The legality of the act aroused considerable discussion in this country. John Q. Adams, in an exhaustive speech delivered in Tremont temple, Boston, justified England. Mr. Adams said that it would not do to violate the law of nations to suppress an evil, however great.

“Before the evil of intemperance can be suppressed by legislative enactments, natural laws must be repealed. As long as the soil produces fruit and grain, ardent spirits will be manufactured and used as a beverage. To declare it to be a crime to manufacture and drink wine in moderation would, in effect, accuse Christ and the Holy Apostles of sinful practice. The first miracle of our own blessed Saviour was the manufacture of wine out of water. It was performed at the request of his mother, at the wedding of her niece and his cousin.

"The object of the miracle was to furnish a stimulant to the brain, to prolong the mirth and joy of the wedding party. We must presume, therefore, that Christ and his disciples made use of wine as a beverage.

"It was at the celebration of the Passover, an occurrence similar to our 21st of April Passover, that our Saviour took the wine cup from the festive board and inaugurated the holy communion.

"I am a sincere Christian. I believe that the precepts and examples as taught and practiced by Christ and his Apostles to be the bed-rock of democracy. Nowhere in the New Testament can we learn that any agency save moral suasion was invoked to make people religious or moral.

"I do not object to total abstinence. I believe that total abstinence is the only way by which some intemperate drinkers can be saved. I know it from my own personal experience. When a person's appetite for stimulating beverage becomes uncontrollable, he should 'touch not, handle not.' If I cannot indulge in the use of the same in moderation, it is my misfortune. To undertake to prescribe rules of conduct for others more fortunate by legislative enactments is a species of legislation that will not be tolerated in a free land.

"Moral suasion is the only legitimate weapon that ministers of the Gospel can make use of to win men from vice of every description.

"Garlands of grace and beauty are more effectual in winning men from the vice of intemperance than sumptuary laws.

"With these observations I will give you my opinion what I consider would be proper legislation with reference to a day of rest. It would be proper for the legislature to declare it a penal offense for any person to

disturb religious worship on Sunday or any other day; that no person, bond or free, should be compelled to perform any labor on Sunday except to enforce the criminal laws of the State. Such a law would protect the rights of all and work injury to none."

Governor Houston's position upon the secession question may be briefly stated thus: He admitted that the Southern States had just cause to complain of the acts of some portion of the people of the free States, but he denied that the national government had ever trespassed upon the rights of the slaveholding States in the least. Therefore secession, in his opinion, was not the legitimate remedy for the redress of Southern grievances.

The secession convention ordered all State officials to take the oath of allegiance to the Southern Confederacy.

Not being able to get his own consent so to do, he "stepped down and out of the chair of State."

In reviewing the past it is clearly perceptible that it was due to his wonderful caution and foresight that Texas was saved from destruction at several critical periods. The most important and dangerous crisis occurred on the day after the battle of San Jacinto.

General Lamar or General Rusk might have been able to have led the Texans on to victory on the 21st, but neither had the ability to have gathered the fruit of the victory on the 22d.

Had General Lamar been the Commander-in-Chief Santa Anna and all the Mexican officers would have been instantly shot.

That measure would have had the effect to have shifted the ignominy that rested upon the shoulders of Santa Anna to his own, and civilized and powerful nations would have withdrawn their sympathy and good will from the Texans and the cause in which they were engaged.

General Lamar would have then seen "a cavalcade of heroes" coming from Mexico to Texas for his destruction, instead of the United States for his salvation.

We have seen that when President Burnet granted General Houston leave of absence he placed General Rusk, the most popular man in the service, in command.

Instead of General Rusk being able to command his subordinates, that composed the army, they commanded him. Instead of obeying the orders of their General they held mass meetings and voted such orders as they desired their commanding General should obey. In a warm contested election they voted to order their General to arrest his superior in command, President Burnet, for attempting to send Santa Anna home without consulting them.

Such proceedings forcibly reminded General Rusk that his private affairs had been too long neglected, and he sent his resignation to the President.

As has been heretofore stated, on the retirement of General Rusk, General Lamar was, by the President, appointed Commander-in-Chief. On assuming command the General desired to profit by the sad experience of his predecessor ; he desired the summary execution of Santa Anna, but he did not wish to violate the orders of his soldiers, and he assembled his army in convention and proposed to the soldiers to vote upon the proposition, whether or not Santa Anna should be tried and executed. After carefully and nicely counting the votes it was discovered that a large majority favored his execution.

The execution of the order was prevented by the timely arrival of General Houston. General Houston told the officers and privates in substance, that they must obey all orders emanating from legitimate authority, "that where there was no law there could be no liberty."

Such Generals as Lamar and Rusk did not have the ability sufficient to have conducted that perilous and wonderful retreat of the Texan army, (composed as it was of would-be Generals and discontents) from the Colorado to the San Jacinto, which terminated in a battle that annihilated the Mexican army and secured a treaty that assured the independence of Texas.

Stephen F. Austin, Thomas J. Rusk and William H. Whorton and many others, were his patriotic and able co-laborers—they always sustained him in all important measures. But to undertake to shadow his fame by the deeds of any other Texan would be as vain and futile as it would be for a lightning bug to attempt to out-shine the majestic splendör of the noon-day sun. Sam Houston was ordained and predestinated from the foundation of the world to be the Saviour of Texas.

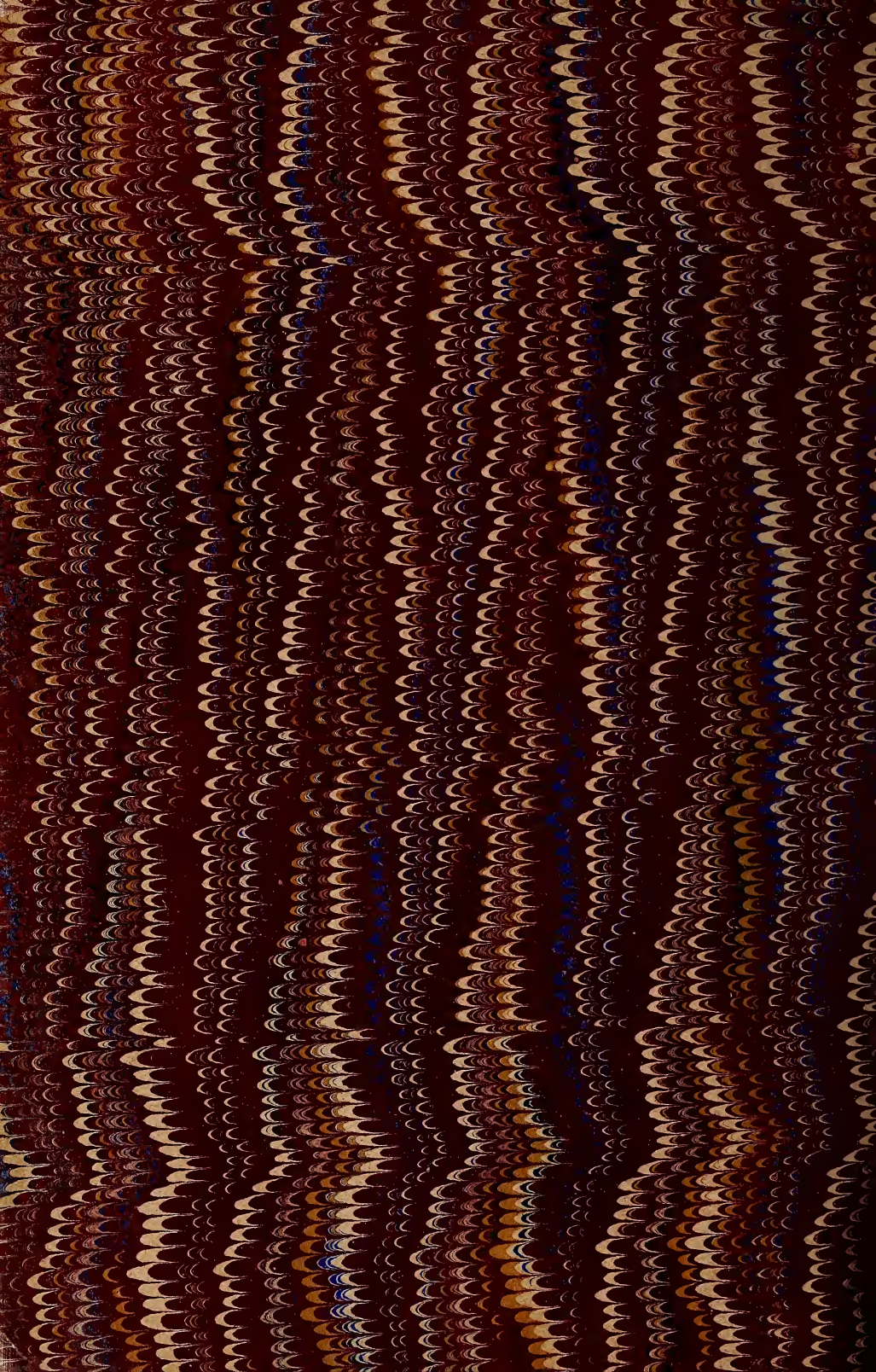
John Adams, the iron-clad patriot, was at one time asked how it happened that he, in the Continental Congress in 1775, at Philadelphia, nominated Washington Commander-in-Chief of the revolutionary army. To the great surprise of every delegate and to Washington himself, he said : "I was well aware jealousy existed among the officers that had distinguished themselves at Lexington and Bunker Hill, and that there were several that desired to be appointed to the position. I considered it of great importance that the person appointed should be a man able to command obedience and respect from all. I saw a delegate sitting in front of me from Virginia, that possessed in a wonderful degree modesty, caution and bravery combined. - I knew something of his early history. I saw, in my imagination, his caution, skill and bravery in warfare. I saw him as aid to the proud and haughty General Braddock in his campaign against Fort du Quesne in 1755. I saw his caution manifested in at-

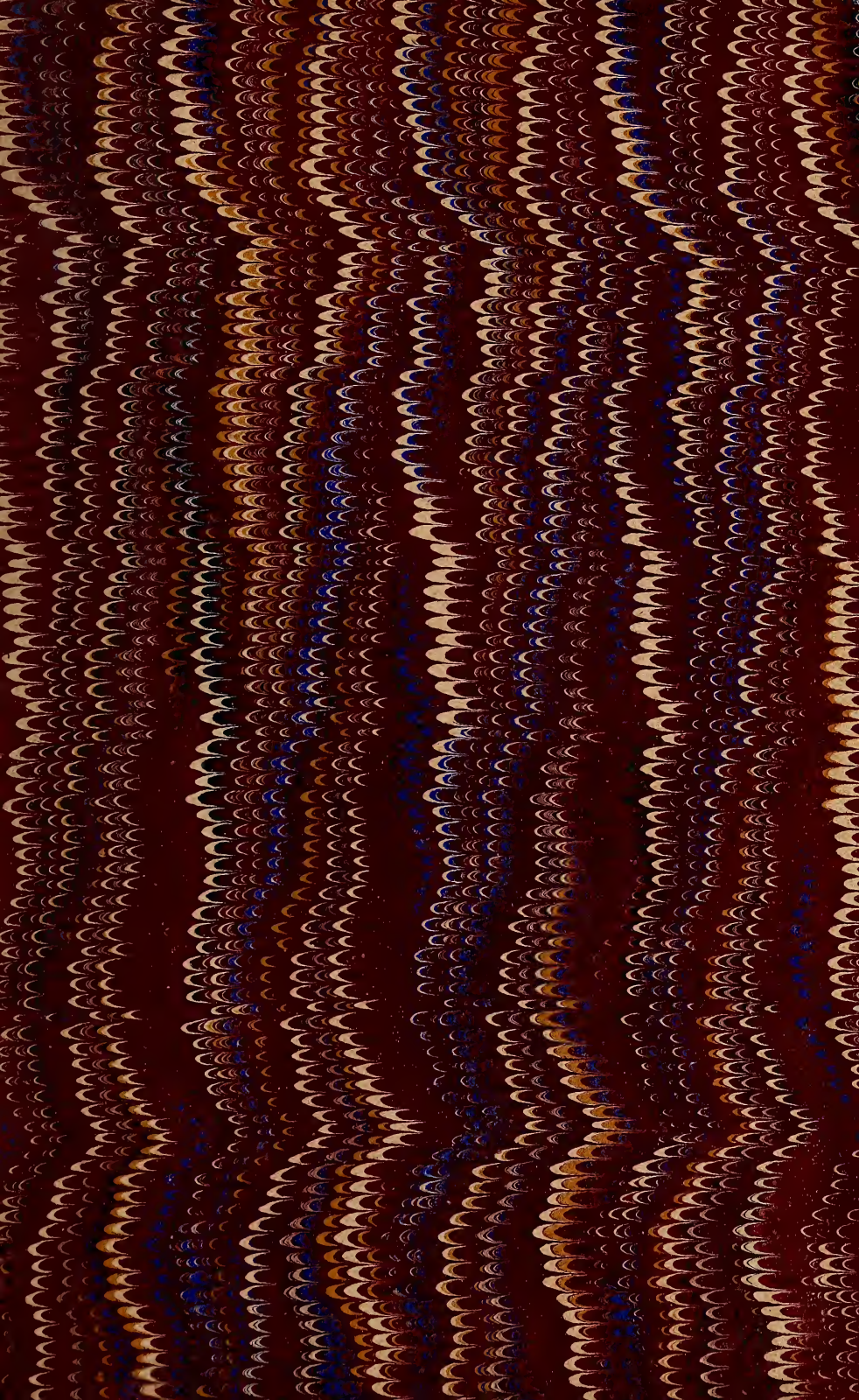
tempting to advise his general to be careful not to be caught in a trap. I saw General Braddock and his command drawn in to an ambushade when within a short distance from the Fort. I saw leaden bullets hurled into the ranks of his soldiers from muskets in the hands of the French and Indians, from behind every tree in front, right and left. I saw General Braddock and many of his officers fall mortally wounded in attempting to rally and steady their men in line of battle. I saw Colonel Washington, whose counsel and advise had been spurned, at the head of his plain-clad Virginia troops, boldly and deliberately rush between the enemy and the retreating army, cover their retreat, and save them from slaughter. I saw an Indian Chief, at short range, from behind a tree, with deliberate aim, fire seventeen shots at him without harm.

"I believed then as I do now that he was a special favorite of Divine Power, and was divinely inspired to be the Saviour of his country."

Washington, Jackson and Houston are the "immortal trio," American warrior-statesmen. Providence conferred upon them certain gifts, and dedicated each one to perform certain achievements. Neither one could well have performed the work of the other. They were the type of the men they led to victory in war and governed in peace. Their fame never has nor never will be eclipsed in this country.

They are great because their achievements for the good of mankind were great. The manner in which they served their country bears evidence of pure unselfishness, and what is of great value to the American people, they bequeathed to posterity an unblemished personal character for honesty, integrity and honor.





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